



DARK NIGHTS

1

METAL



**Scott
Snyder**
**Greg
Capullo**
Jonathan
Glapion
fco
Plascencia

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DARK NIGHTS

1

HELL



**Scott
Snyder**

**Greg
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**Jonathan
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**RCO
Plascencia**

SIMCEE
WALLACE
SINC



DARK NIGHTS

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JR JR
WHITE

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DARK NIGHTS

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DEATH



Andy
Kober
BA

**Scott
Snyder**

**Greg
Capullo**

**Jonathan
Glapon
FCO
Plascencia**



DARK NIGHTS

1

METAL



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DARK NIGHTS

1

METAL



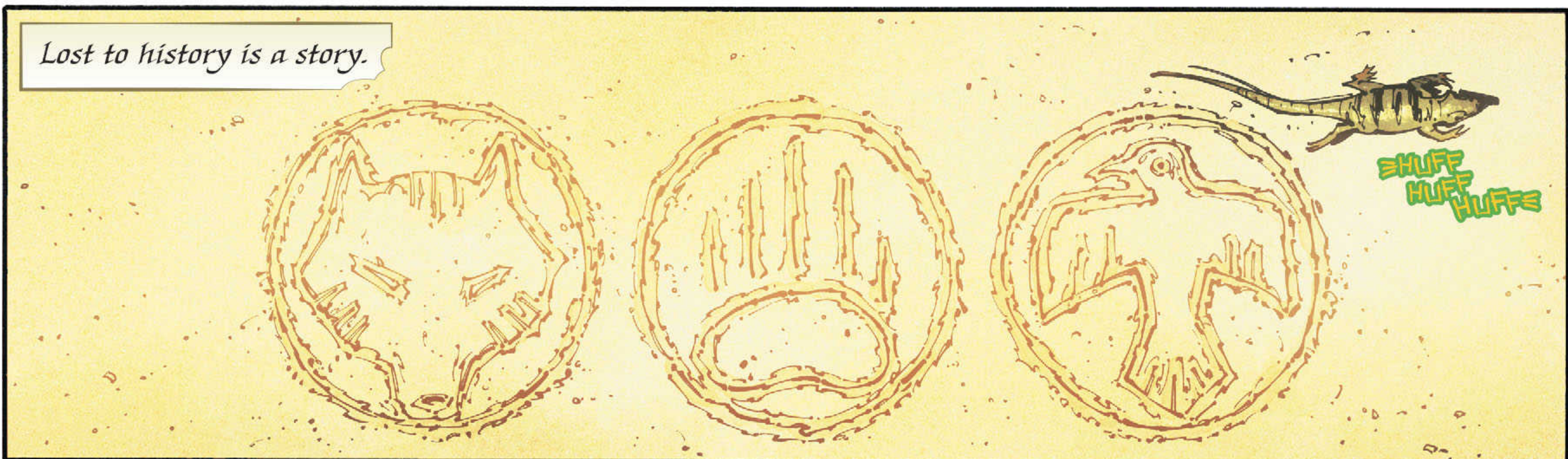
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50,000 YEARS AGO.



Lost to history is a story.



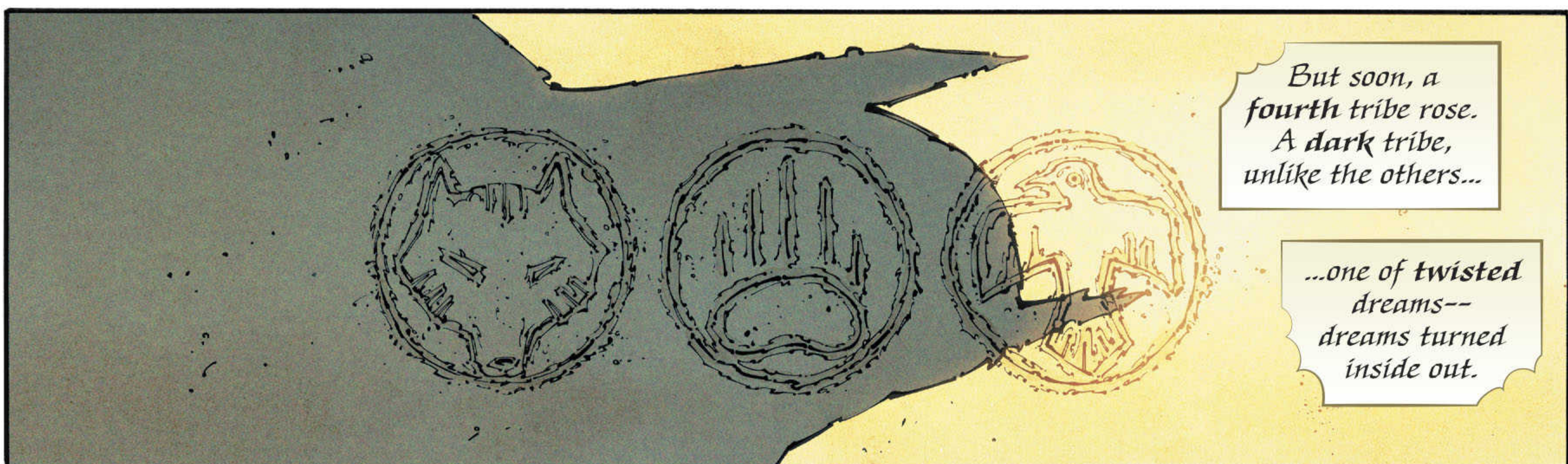
A story about how, in these lands, during the Age of Stone, there were three great tribes of man. Tribe of the Wolf, of the Bear and of the Bird.



All were nomadic, and shared a grand dream-- a dream of discovery.

But soon, a fourth tribe rose. A dark tribe, unlike the others...

...one of twisted dreams-- dreams turned inside out.



And with its terrible rise, so began The Age...



...of Metal.

RIGHT NOW.



**BEHOLD!
YOUR MIGHTY
JUSTICE LEAGUE...**

"MIGHTY." HA!
WHAT DEATH DESIGN
SHOULD THEY FACE
NEXT? SOMETHING
SPECIAL, EH?



IT DOESN'T
MAKE ANY SENSE.
MONGUL WAS BEING
KEPT UNDER WATCH BY
THE BRAALIANS AFTER
HIS FIGHT WITH
GENERAL ZOD. HOW
HE BUILT A NEW
WAR MOON...

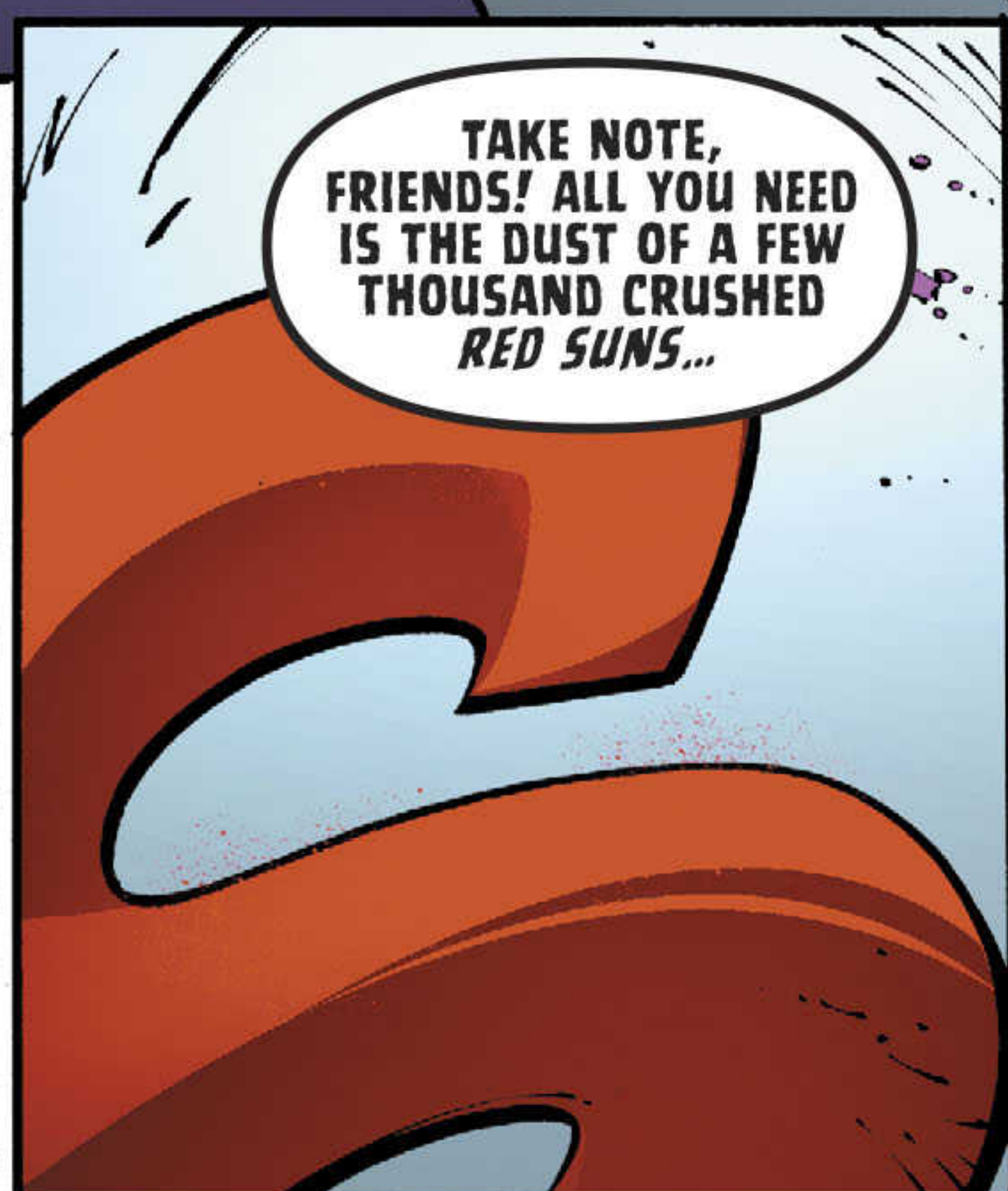
FOCUS,
BATMAN. WHAT
WE NEED TO DO
IS FIGURE A
WAY OUT OF
HERE.

WHAT
WE NEED
TO DO IS
WIN.

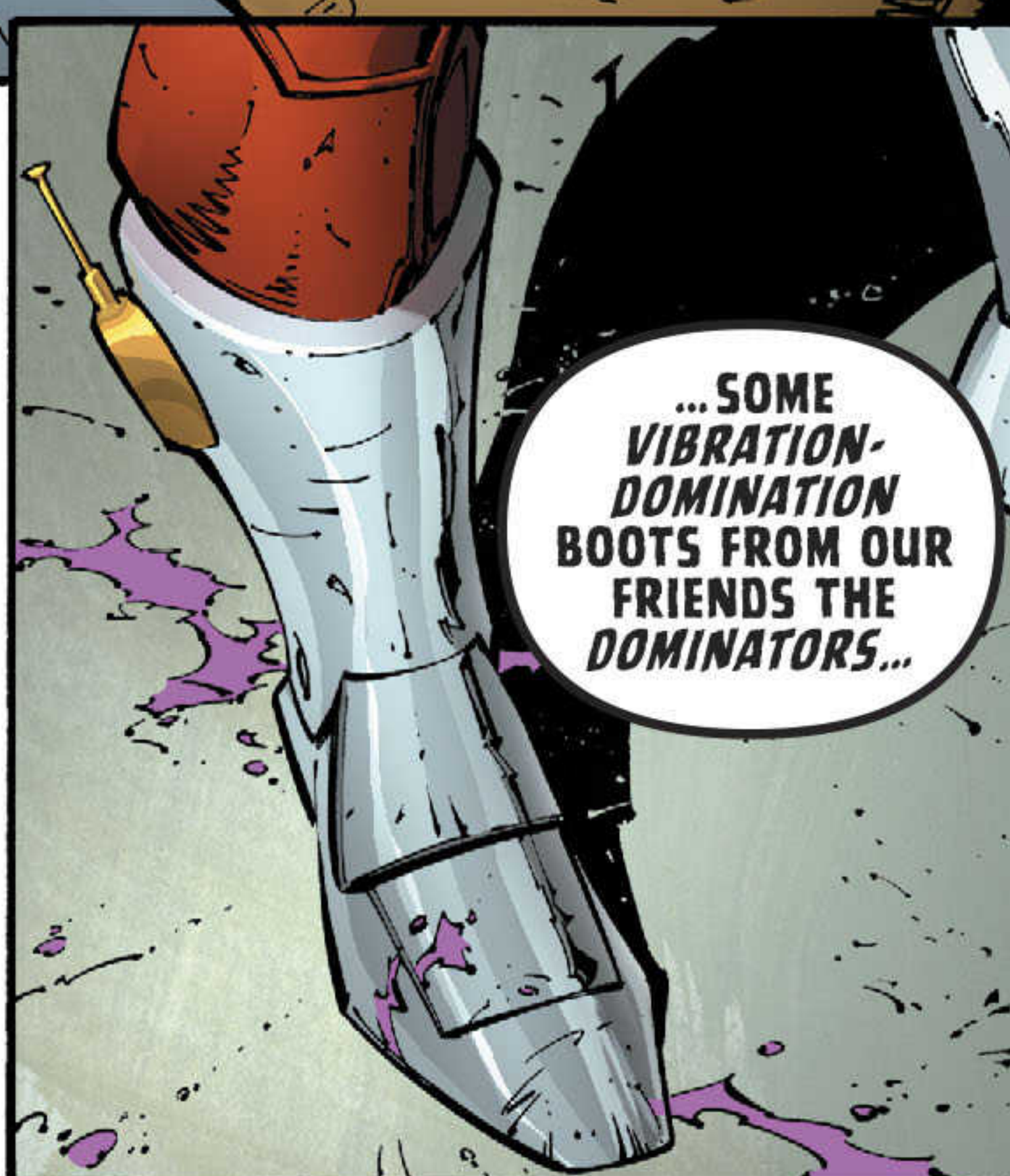




JUST LOOK AT THEM. HOBBLING SO EASILY! MADE WEAK BY THE VERY ARMOR I FASTENED TO THEM!



TAKE NOTE, FRIENDS! ALL YOU NEED IS THE DUST OF A FEW THOUSAND CRUSHED RED SUNS...



...SOME VIBRATION-DOMINATION BOOTS FROM OUR FRIENDS THE DOMINATORS...



...A LOCK FROM STHENO, THE ELDER GORGON, VENOM INFUSED...



...A FEW MORE TRINKETS FOR THE REST, AND SUDDENLY THESE "HEROES" ARE FORCED TO FIGHT FOR REAL, EH?!

SO WHAT SHALL THEY BATTLE?! LET'S ASK MY FAVORITE RESIDENT SLAVE, MR. HIRO, THE TOYMAN! NOW SPEAK UP, BOY! WHAT COMES THROUGH MY GATES?!

I CALL IT FULCUM ABOMINUS.



HAHA!

FULCUM ABOMINUS.

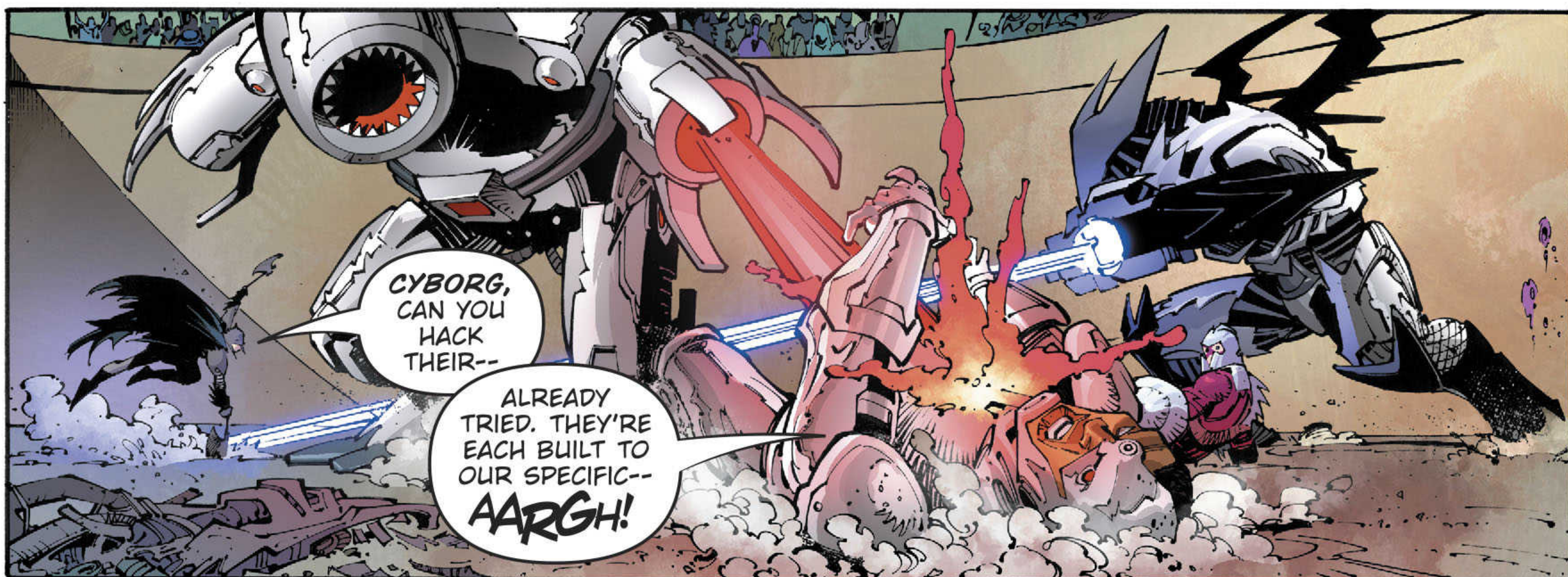
IIII LOVE IT! AND NOW, MY FRIENDS, IT'S THAT TIME!

TIME... TO...



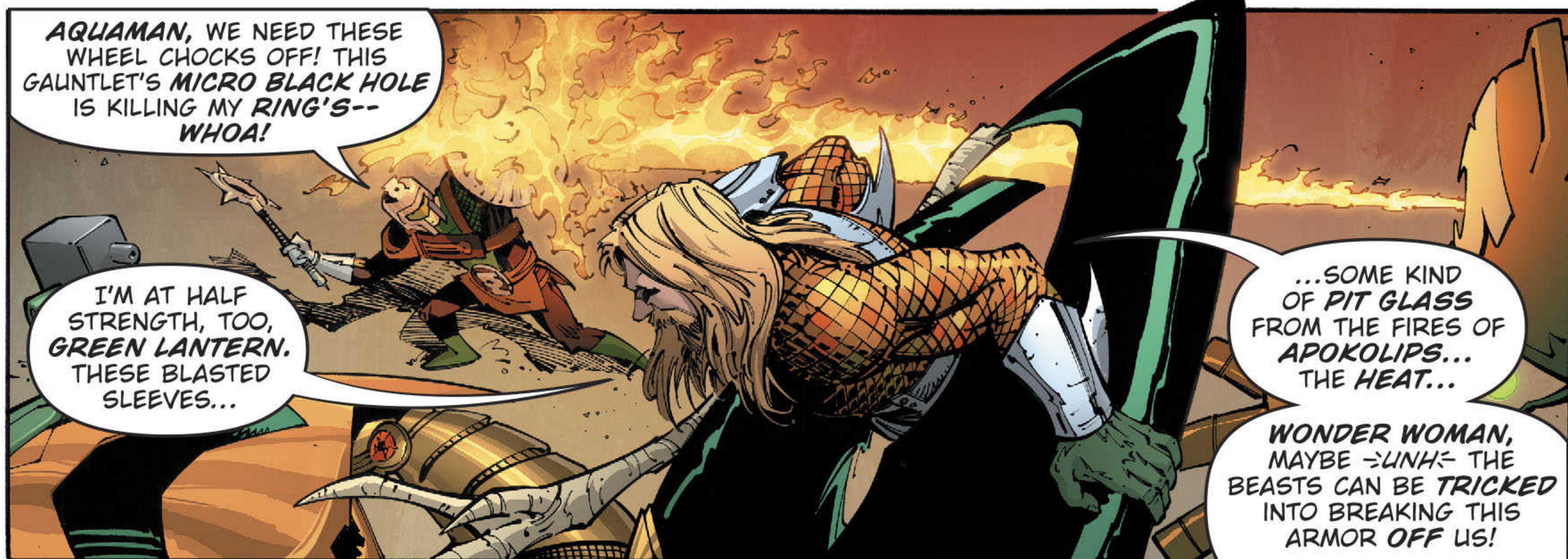
GO TO WAR!
GO TO WAR!





CYBORG,
CAN YOU
HACK
THEIR--

ALREADY
TRIED. THEY'RE
EACH BUILT TO
OUR SPECIFIC--
AARGH!

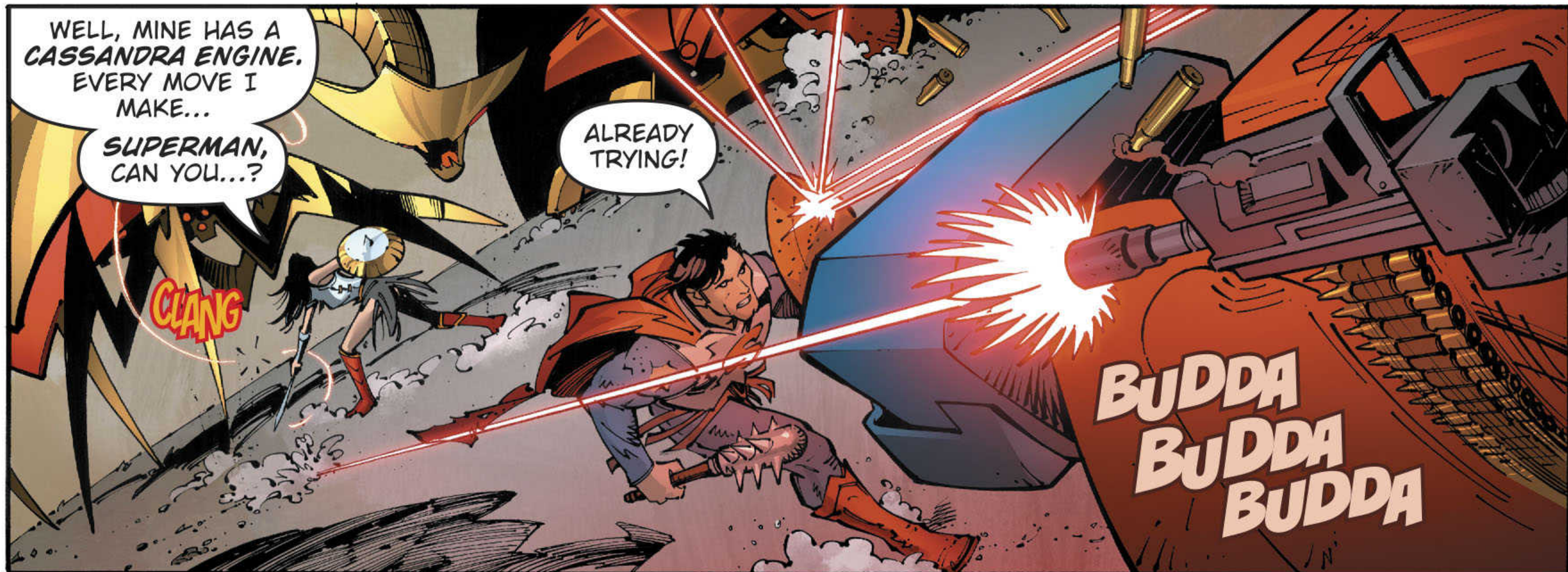


AQUAMAN, WE NEED THESE
WHEEL CHOCKS OFF! THIS
GAUNTLET'S MICRO BLACK HOLE
IS KILLING MY RING'S--
WHOA!

I'M AT HALF
STRENGTH, TOO,
GREEN LANTERN.
THESE BLASTED
SLEEVES...

...SOME KIND
OF PIT GLASS
FROM THE FIRES OF
APOKOLIPS...
THE HEAT...

WONDER WOMAN,
MAYBE ~~UNH~~ THE
BEASTS CAN BE TRICKED
INTO BREAKING THIS
ARMOR OFF US!



WELL, MINE HAS A
CASSANDRA ENGINE.
EVERY MOVE I
MAKE...

SUPERMAN,
CAN YOU...?

ALREADY
TRYING!

CLANG

**BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA**



NO GO! THEY
AVOID THE ARMOR!
AGH! THEY ONLY
GO FOR THE
FLESH!



KRANG

STILL,
THEY'RE JUST
MACHINES! THEY
HAVE TO HAVE A
WEAKNESS!







"THERE ARE
SYMBOLS..."



"...INSIDE THE MOUTHS!"



"ACTIVATE
THEM NOW!"



"HOWEVER
YOU CAN!"



AND
THEN?



"AND THEN LET THEM EAT YOU!"

YOU HEARD HIM!
THEN LET THEM--
--WAITWHAT?



ARGH!

SEE, THIS IS
WHY WE VOTE ON
STRATEGY!

GOOD PLANS?
THEY DON'T
HURT THIS MUCH!
IT'S TEARING
INTO MY--
AAAAH!

QUIET,
CYBORG.

LISTEN TO ME. BE CALM. LET IT HAPPEN. IT'S ALL IN THE NAME. **FULCUM ABOMINUS. ABOMINUS**, LIKE SOMETHING THAT **DEFIES** THE ORDER OF THINGS...

...AND **FULCUM** FROM THE LATE ROMAN PERIOD. A **WARRIOR FORMATION CRY** MADE FROM DEEP IN THE THROAT, A CALL TO **LOCK SHIELDS**.

TOYMAN WAS GIVING US A CLUE. HIS WAY OUT OF THIS...A TRICK HE PLAYED ON **MONGUL**.

WHAT TRICK?! WHY ARE THESE THINGS **ABSORBING** US?

I KNOW THIS CRY. IT MEANS "COME TOGETHER AS ONE."

COME TOGETHER AS ONE **WHAT?** MEAL?!

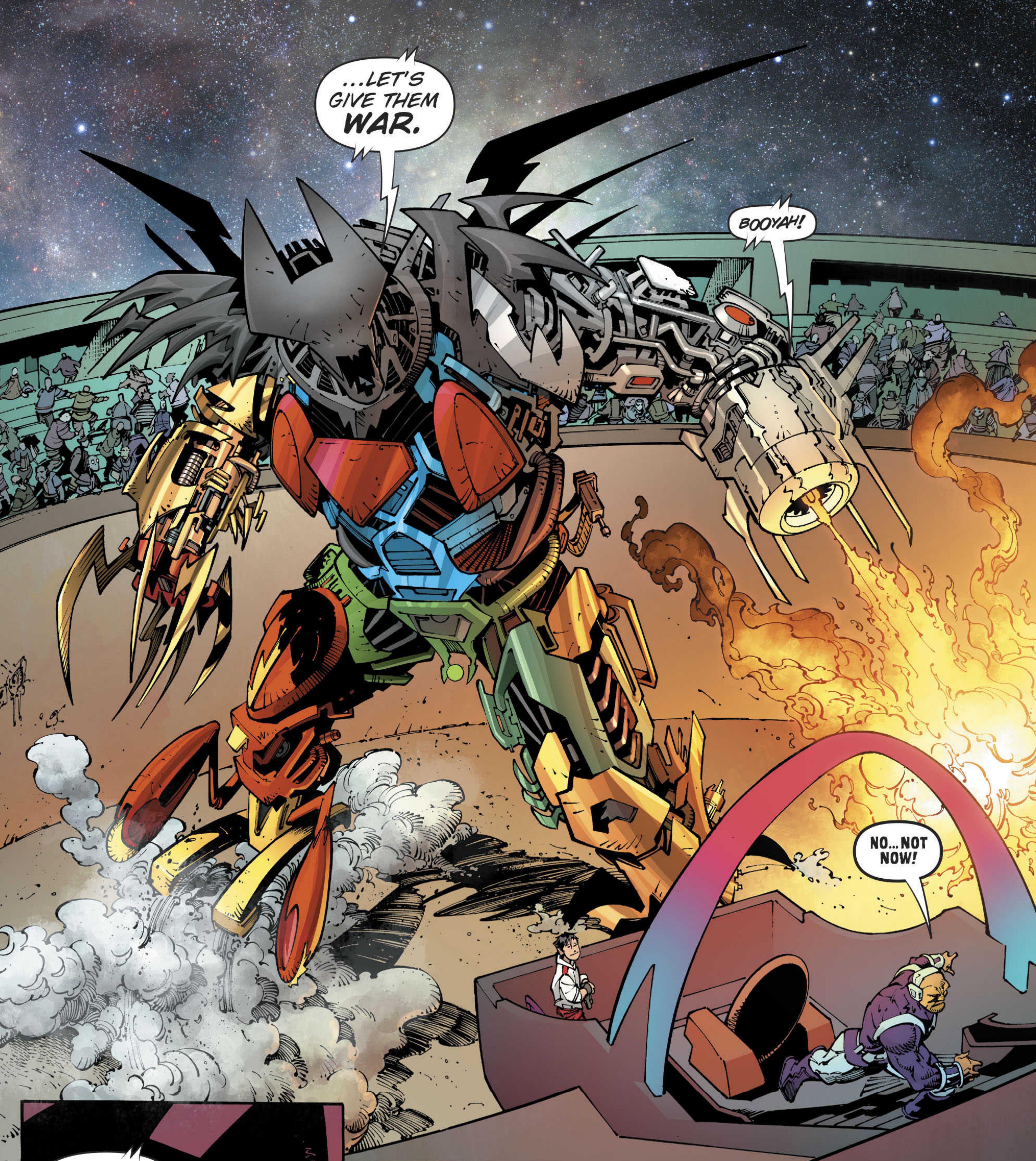
ONE **WARRIOR**.

BRUCE, PLEASE TELL ME YOU'RE KIDDING.

HEH. PLEASE TELL ME YOU'RE NOT?

BECAUSE IF WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS WHAT I **THINK** YOU'RE SAYING...

THE CROWD WANTS **WAR...**



...LET'S
GIVE THEM
WAR.

BOOYAH!

NO...NOT
NOW!

AW, LOOK AT
MONGUL, TRYING
TO RUN. WHAT
DO WE SAY TO
THAT?

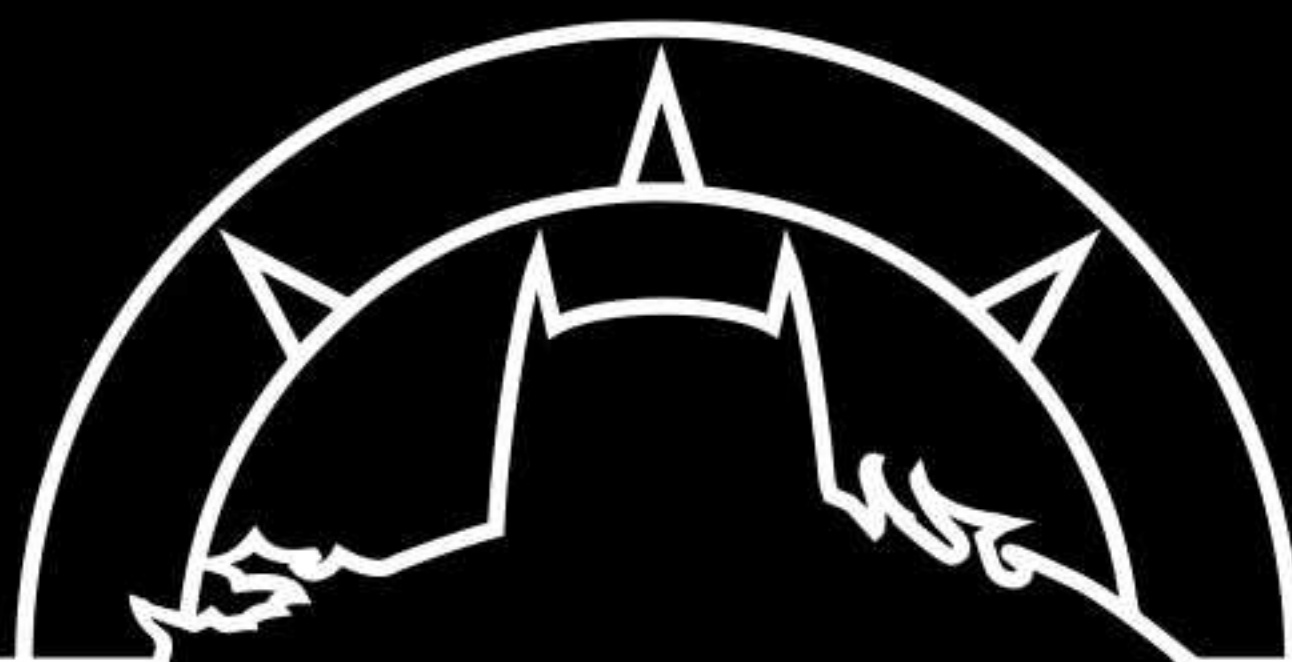
**DO
NOT RUN!
PAIN IS FUN!**

WAIT, WHY DO
I HAVE TO BE
THE FOOT?

SIMPLE,
BARRY. SO
YOU CAN KICK
HIS--



A DC COMICS EVENT



Scott "Doom Commander" Snyder Script

Greg "Pain Bringer" Capullo Pencils

Jonathan "Guillotine" Glapion Inks

FCO "Killer" Plascencia Colors

Steve "The Slayer" Wands Letters

Capullo, Glapion & Plascencia Cover

**Jim "Jackknife" Lee, Scott "Skull Collector" Williams
& Alex "Assassin" Sinclair Variant Cover**

**Andy "The Carnage" Kubert
& Brad "Bonebreaker" Anderson Variant Cover**

**John "Damage" Romita Jr., Danny "Destruction"
Miki & Dean "Decimator" White Variant Cover**

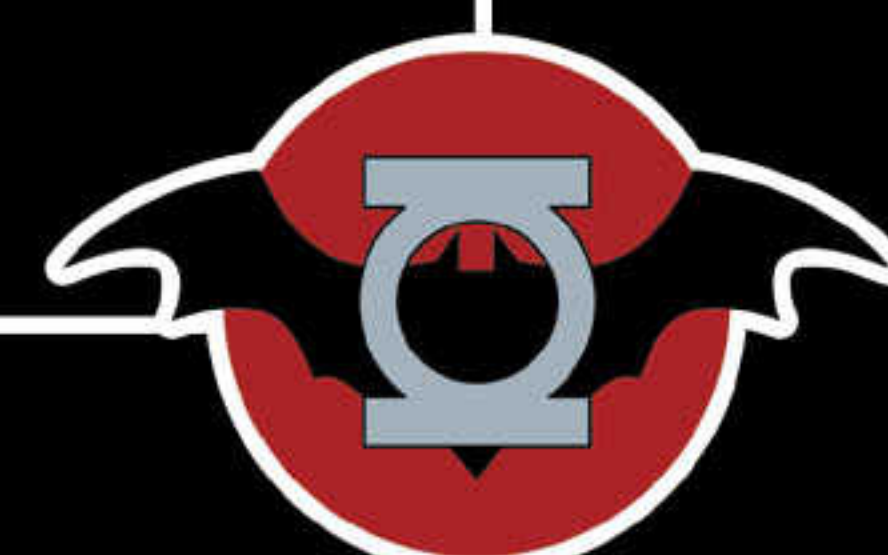
**Eddie "Berserker" Berganza
& Rebecca "The Wrath" Taylor Editors**

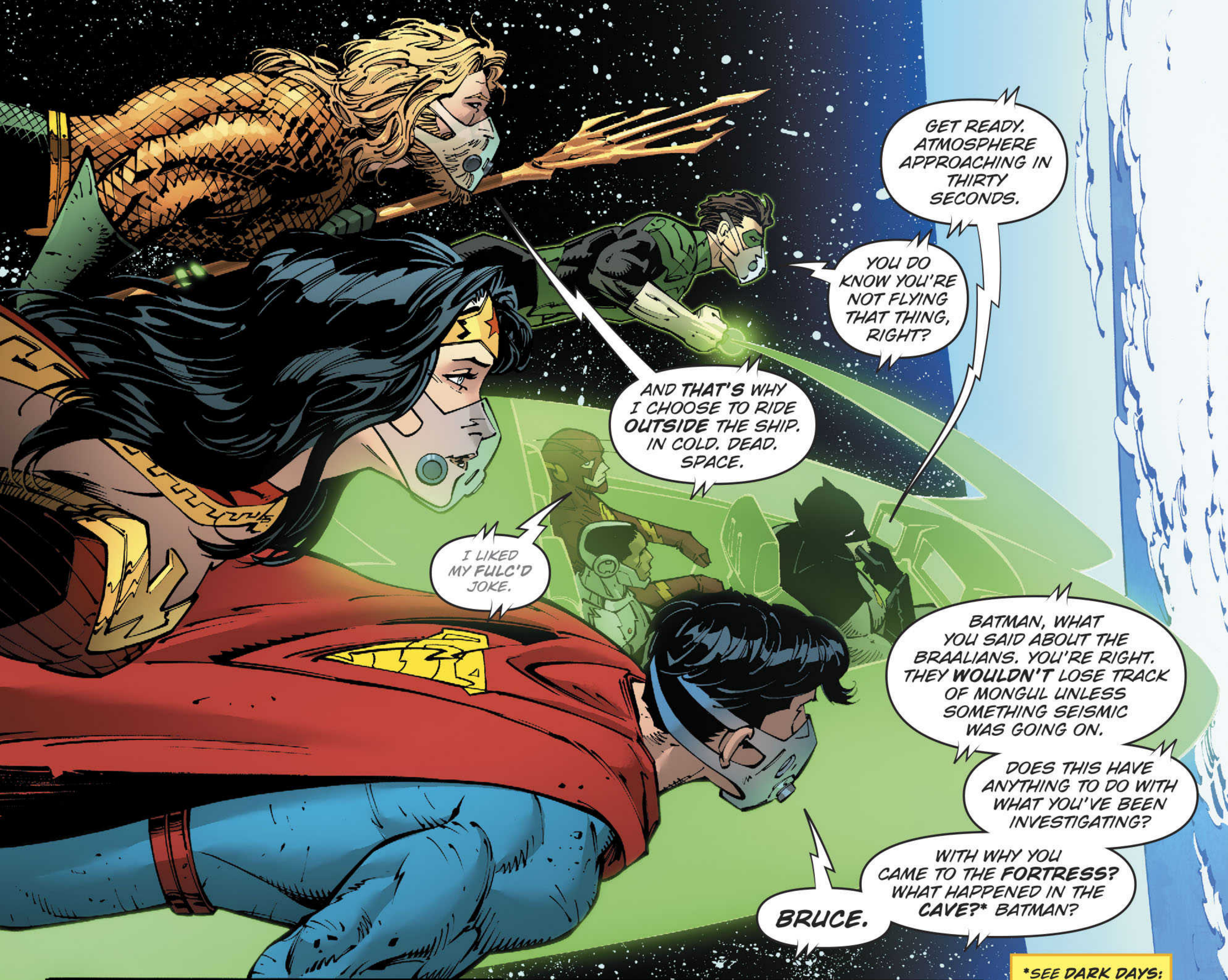
Dave "BloodBath" Wielgosz Assistant Editor

**Superman created by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster.
By special arrangement with the Jerry Siegel family.**

Batman created by Bob Kane with Bill Finger.

Special thanks to Mark "Mayhem" Doyle





GET READY.
ATMOSPHERE
APPROACHING IN
THIRTY
SECONDS.

YOU DO
KNOW YOU'RE
NOT FLYING
THAT THING,
RIGHT?

AND THAT'S WHY
I CHOOSE TO RIDE
OUTSIDE THE SHIP.
IN COLD, DEAD,
SPACE.

I LIKED
MY FULC'D
JOKE.

BATMAN, WHAT
YOU SAID ABOUT THE
BRAALIAN. YOU'RE RIGHT.
THEY WOULDN'T LOSE TRACK
OF MONGUL UNLESS
SOMETHING SEISMIC
WAS GOING ON.

DOES THIS HAVE
ANYTHING TO DO WITH
WHAT YOU'VE BEEN
INVESTIGATING?

WITH WHY YOU
CAME TO THE FORTRESS?
WHAT HAPPENED IN THE
CAVE?* BATMAN?

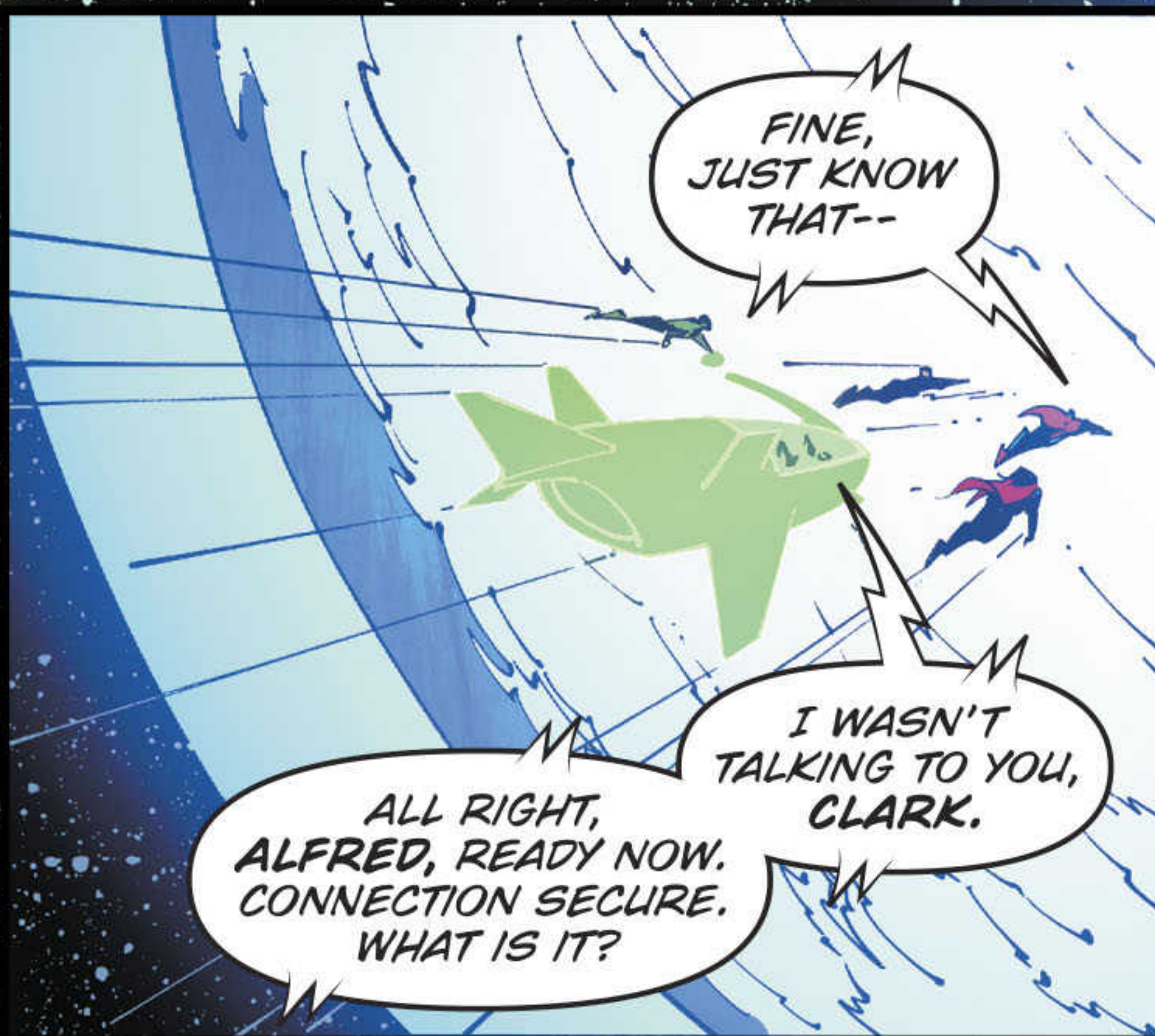
BRUCE.

*SEE DARK DAYS:
THE FORGE
& THE CASTING
-EDDIE & TAY



HEY.
LISTEN, I
KNOW YOU'VE
BEEN GOING
THROUGH A
LOT LATELY. IF
YOU WANT
TO--

I'M NOT
READY.



FINE,
JUST KNOW
THAT--

I WASN'T
TALKING TO YOU,
CLARK.

ALL RIGHT,
ALFRED, READY NOW.
CONNECTION SECURE.
WHAT IS IT?



SIR! THANK GOD.
I'VE BEEN USING EVERY
POSSIBLE LINE OF
COMMUNICATION--

SLOW DOWN,
ALFRED. WHAT
HAPPENED?

IT'S
GOTHAM,
SIR.

WHAT
ABOUT
GOTHAM?



I'M...
I'M AFRAID
YOU'RE GOING
TO HAVE TO
SEE IT FOR
YOURSELF...

GOTHAM CITY.

A MOUNTAIN.
A BLOODY MOUNTAIN
IN THE MIDDLE
OF--

START
FROM THE
BEGINNING,
ALFRED.

THERE WAS SOME
KIND OF...**ENERGY**
STORM IN THE CITY
CENTER...

...**DARK**
LIGHTNING
EVERYWHERE...THEY
EVACUATED THE
AREA AND
THEN...

...THEN THE CITY,
IT SEEMED TO MAKE
ROOM, TO CREATE
SPACE AND THIS...THIS
MOUNTAIN
APPEARED.

...HOW ARE WE
EVER GOING TO...THE
DEVASTATION...

I'M
STANDING IN
IT. SCRAMBLE
THE **FAMILY**.
BATMAN
OUT.

BRUCE, THE
ENERGY COMING
OFF THAT MOUNTAIN. IT'S
LIKE WHAT I FELT FROM
YOUR **MACHINE** IN
THE CAVE.

THE
STONE IS
NOT VOLCANIC.
IT **DIDN'T**
COME FROM
BENEATH THE
SURFACE.

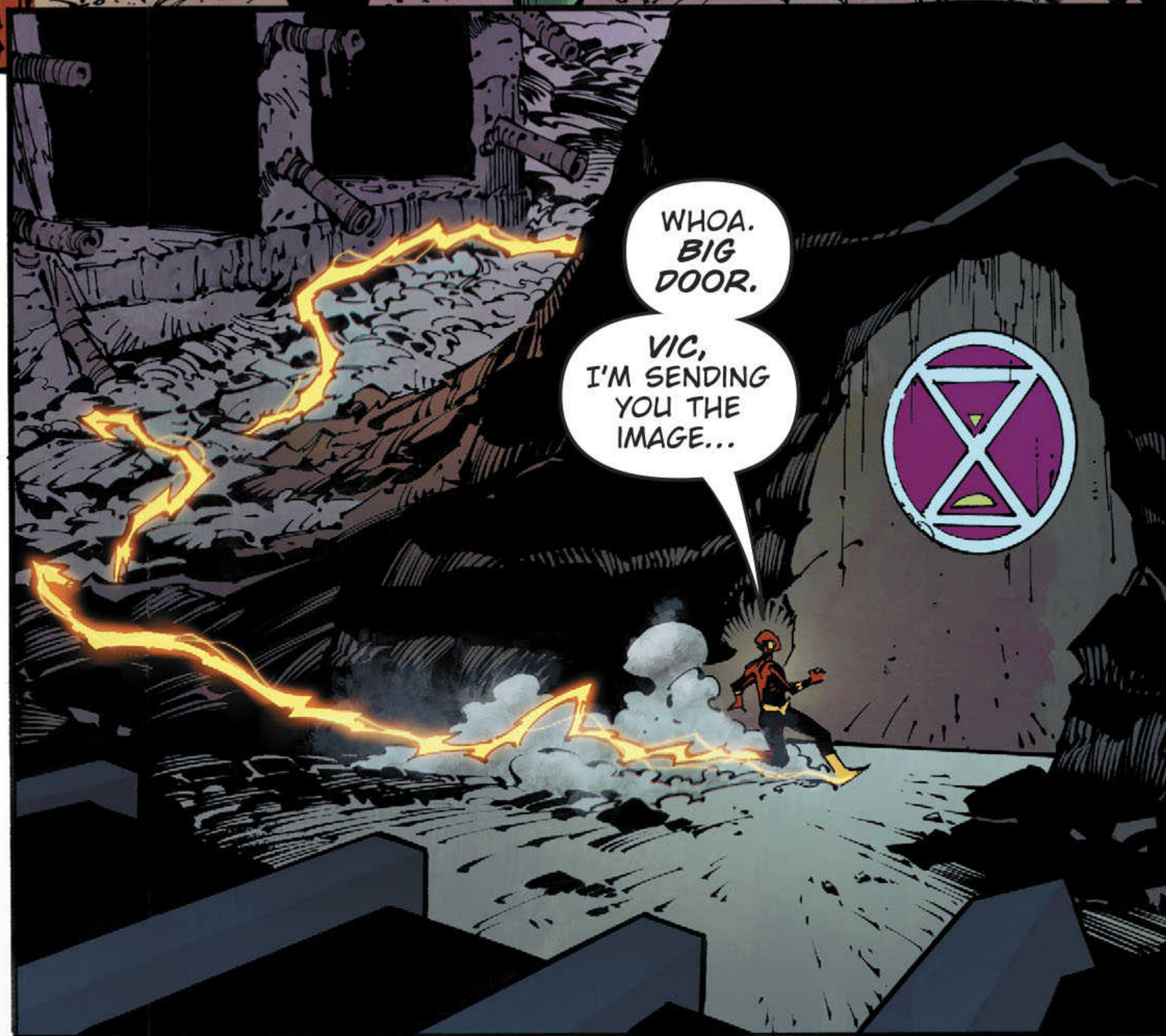
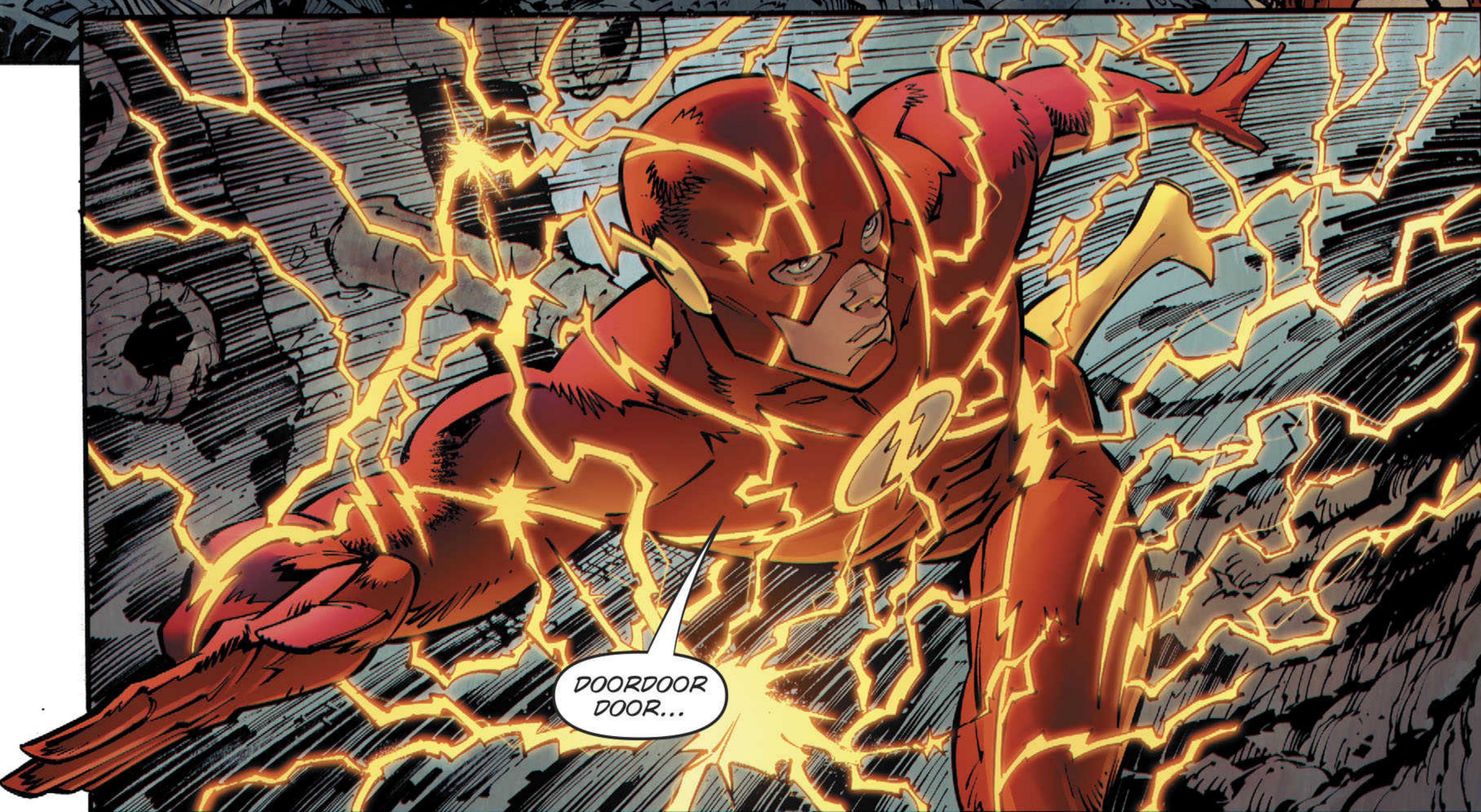
THAT
MOUNTAIN
CAME FROM
SOMEWHERE
ELSE.

WHATEVER
IT IS, ARTHUR, IT'S
HOLLOW. THERE'S A
BUNKER OF SOME
KIND INSIDE.
FLA--

ALREADY
ON IT.

WE'RE ALL
TAPPED INTO THE
WATCHTOWER'S
WARNING SYSTEM,
BRUCE. WHATEVER
THIS IS, THERE'S
NO WAY YOU COULD
HAVE KNOWN.
THERE WERE
NO **SIGNS**.

THERE
ARE **ALWAYS**
SIGNS, DIANA.
WE JUST
DIDN'T SEE
THEM.

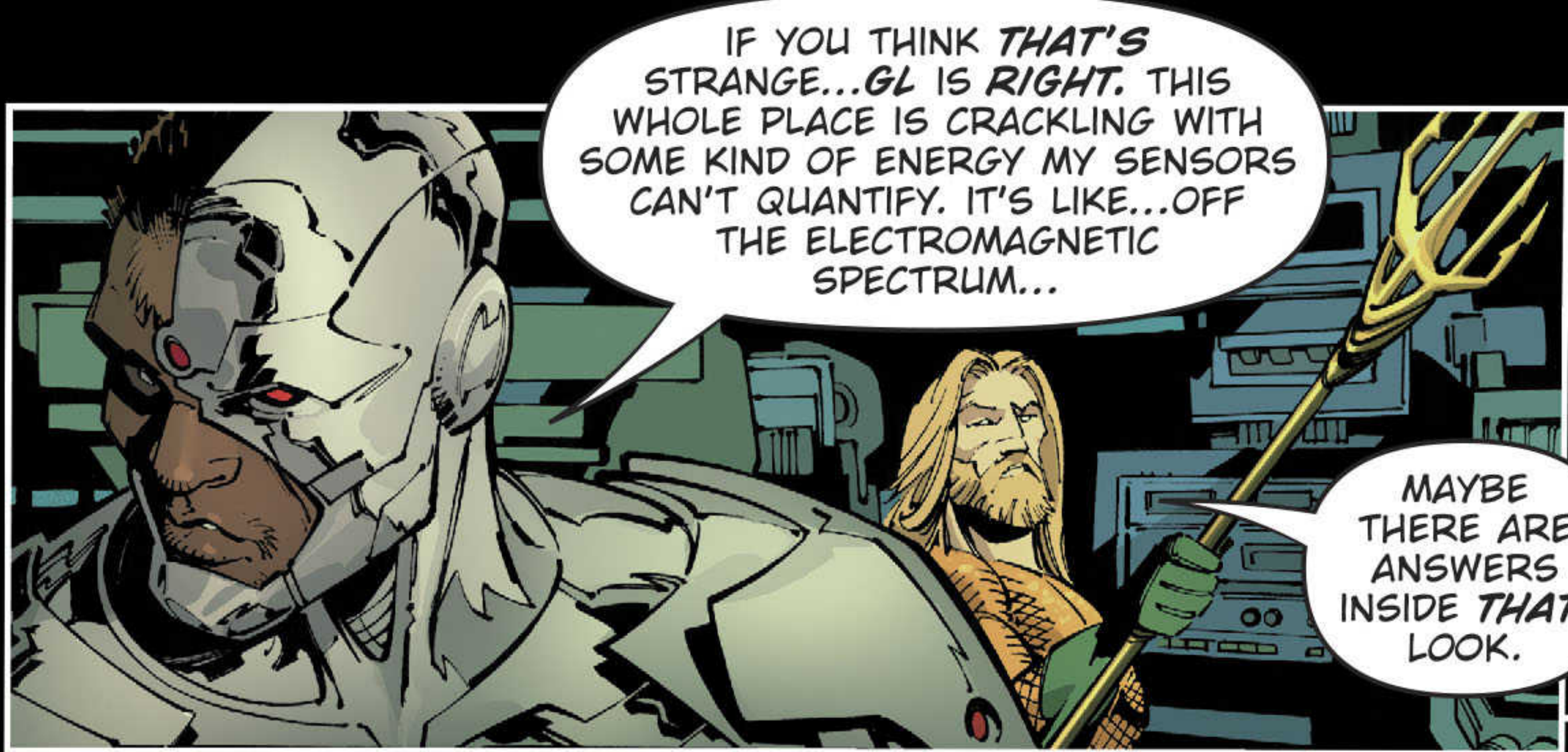




"...BUT IT KEEPS COMING UP 'UNKNOWN.'"

MAN, LOOK AT ALL THIS...WHAT IS IT, SOME KIND OF LABORATORY?

POSSIBLY. THE TECHNOLOGY IS STRANGE, THOUGH. OUTDATED IN MATERIALS, BUT ADVANCED IN DESIGN.



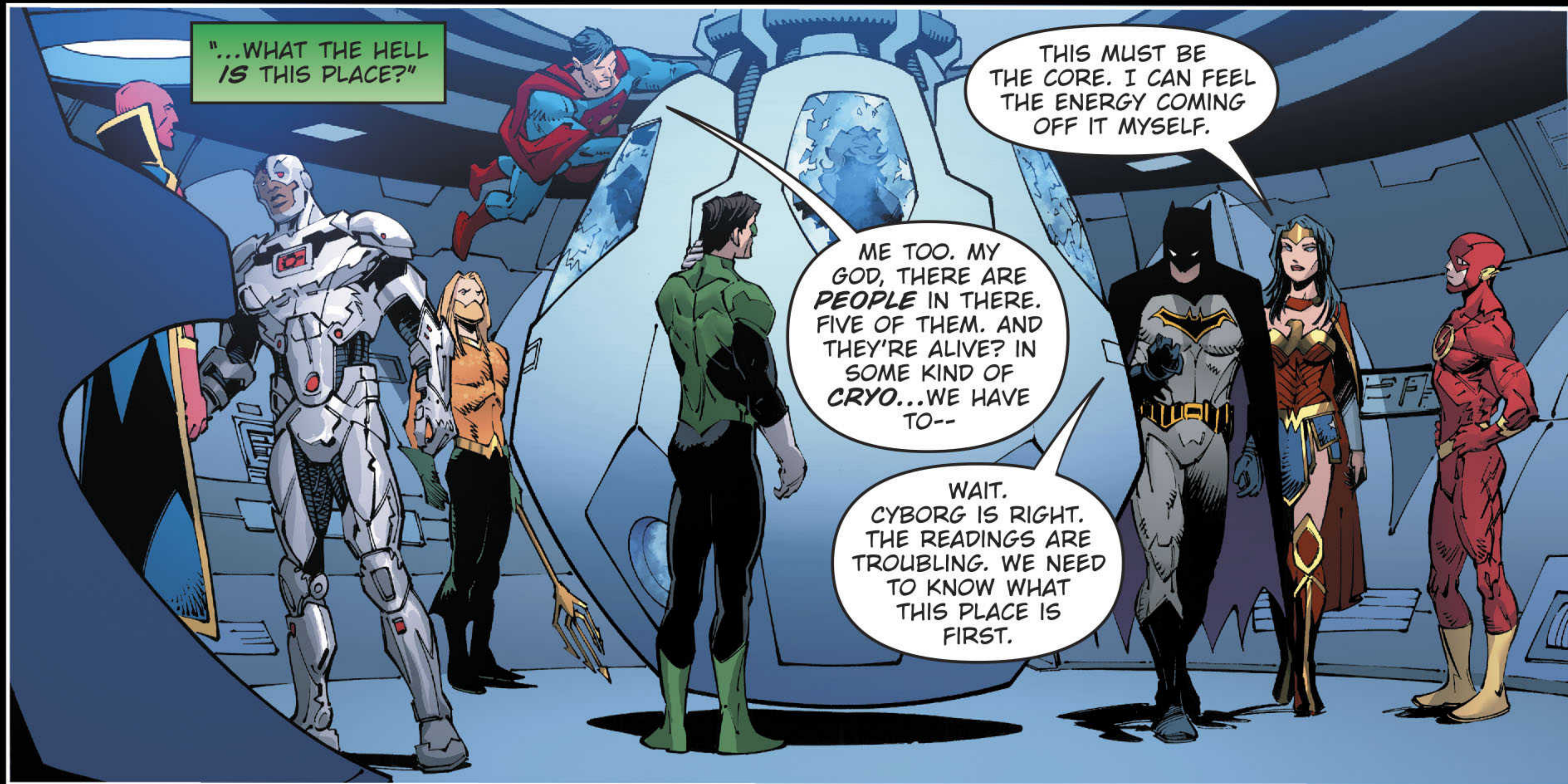
IF YOU THINK *THAT'S* STRANGE...*GL* IS *RIGHT*. THIS WHOLE PLACE IS CRACKLING WITH SOME KIND OF ENERGY MY SENSORS CAN'T QUANTIFY. IT'S LIKE...OFF THE ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM...

MAYBE THERE ARE ANSWERS INSIDE *THAT*. LOOK.



HUH. THAT'S TITANIUM ALLOY. MUST BE SOME KIND OF SPACE POD...?

BUT THERE ARE NO ENGINES FOR FLYING. WHICH BEGS THE QUESTION AGAIN...

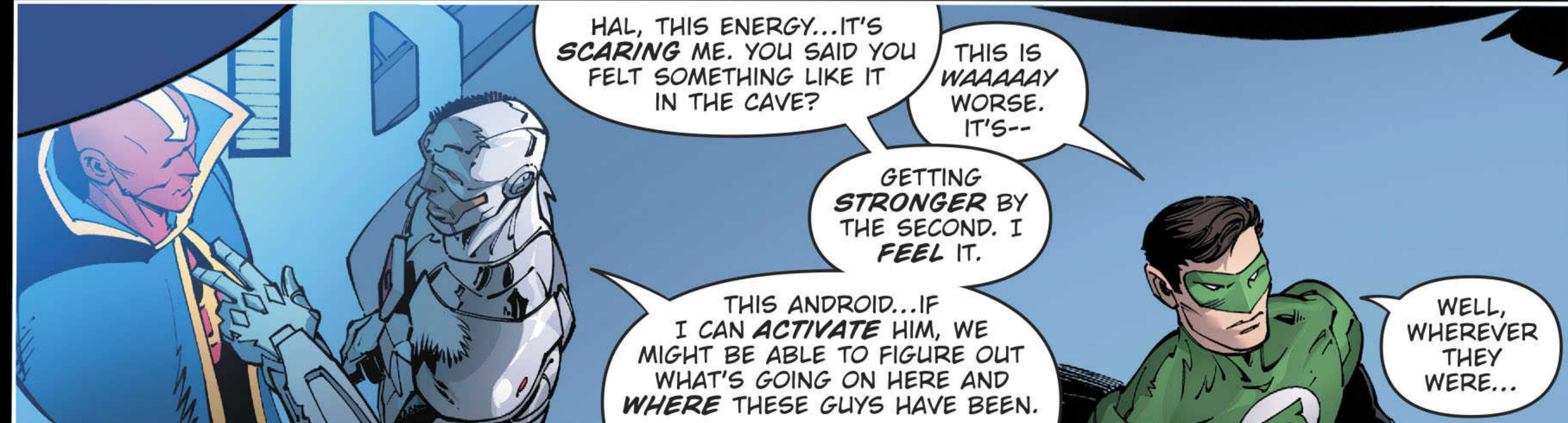


"...WHAT THE HELL IS THIS PLACE?"

THIS MUST BE THE CORE. I CAN FEEL THE ENERGY COMING OFF IT MYSELF.

ME TOO. MY GOD, THERE ARE *PEOPLE* IN THERE. FIVE OF THEM. AND THEY'RE ALIVE? IN SOME KIND OF *CRYO*...WE HAVE TO--

WAIT. CYBORG IS RIGHT. THE READINGS ARE TROUBLING. WE NEED TO KNOW WHAT THIS PLACE IS FIRST.



HAL, THIS ENERGY...IT'S *SCARING* ME. YOU SAID YOU FELT SOMETHING LIKE IT IN THE CAVE?

THIS IS *WAAAAAY* WORSE. IT'S--

GETTING *STRONGER* BY THE SECOND. I *FEEL* IT.

THIS ANDROID...IF I CAN *ACTIVATE* HIM, WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIGURE OUT WHAT'S GOING ON HERE AND *WHERE* THESE GUYS HAVE BEEN.

WELL, WHEREVER THEY WERE...



...IT WASN'T GOOD. LOOK.



STOP! YOU, THERE!

STEP AWAY FROM THE C-POD! NOW!

AND WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?

SHE'S CALLED LADY BLACKHAWK.



SHE RUNS THE BLACKHAWKS, SOME KIND OF DAMN **COVERT** ANTI-APOCALYPTIC TEAM. THEY'VE BEEN WATCHING ME, I'VE BEEN WATCHING THEM. LEARNING THEIR SECRETS.*

BELIEVE ME, THERE'S **PLENTY** YOU STILL DON'T KNOW.

AND WHY SHOULD I LISTEN TO YOU?

BECAUSE I'M NOT **JUST** LADY BLACKHAWK, BATMAN...

*SEE ALL-STAR BATMAN #6-9
-EDDIE & TAY



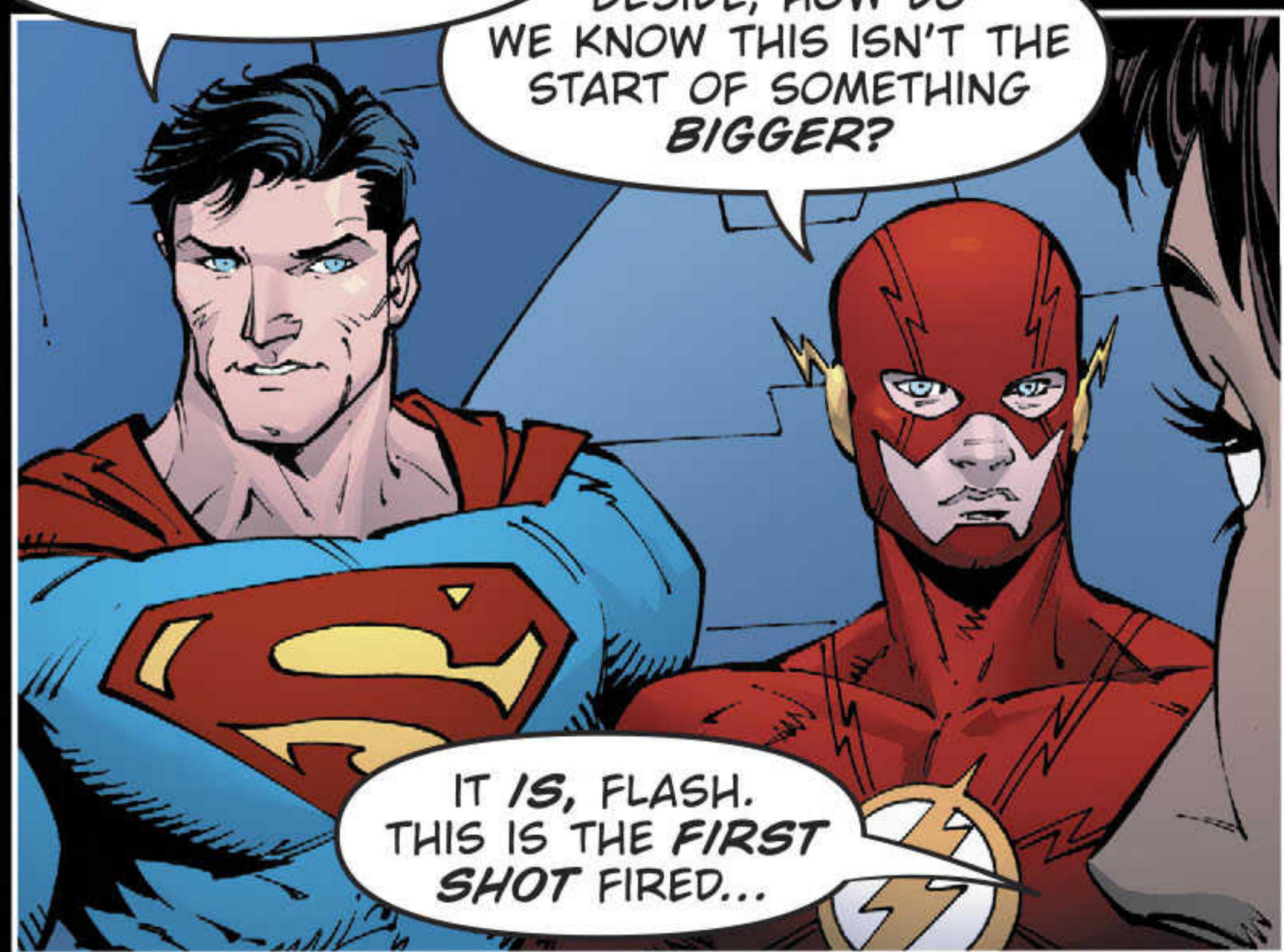
...MY NAME IS **KENDRA SAUNDERS**.

AND YOU DON'T KNOW ME, BUT I KNOW **ALL** OF YOU.

SO I NEED YOU COME WITH ME **NOW**.

COME WITH YOU? THERE'S A CITY OUTSIDE, **BROKEN**. THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE **TERRIFIED**. YOU MIGHT NOT HEAR THEM BUT **I** CAN.

BESIDE, HOW DO WE KNOW THIS ISN'T THE START OF SOMETHING **BIGGER**?



IT **IS**, FLASH. THIS IS THE **FIRST SHOT** FIRED...



...OF A **FULL SCALE** INVASION.

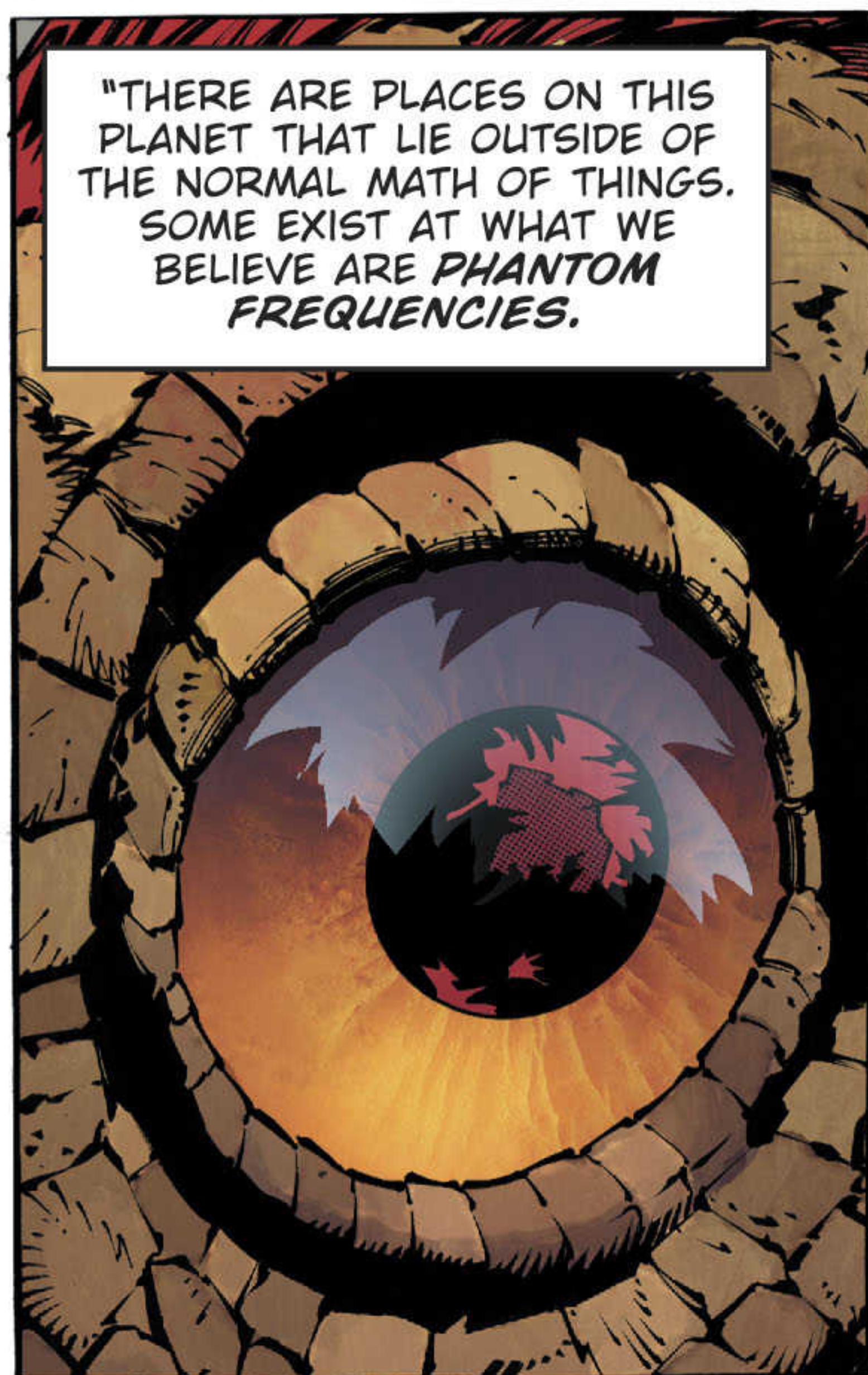
ONE THAT'S BEEN PLANNED FOR CENTURIES.

BY **WHO**?

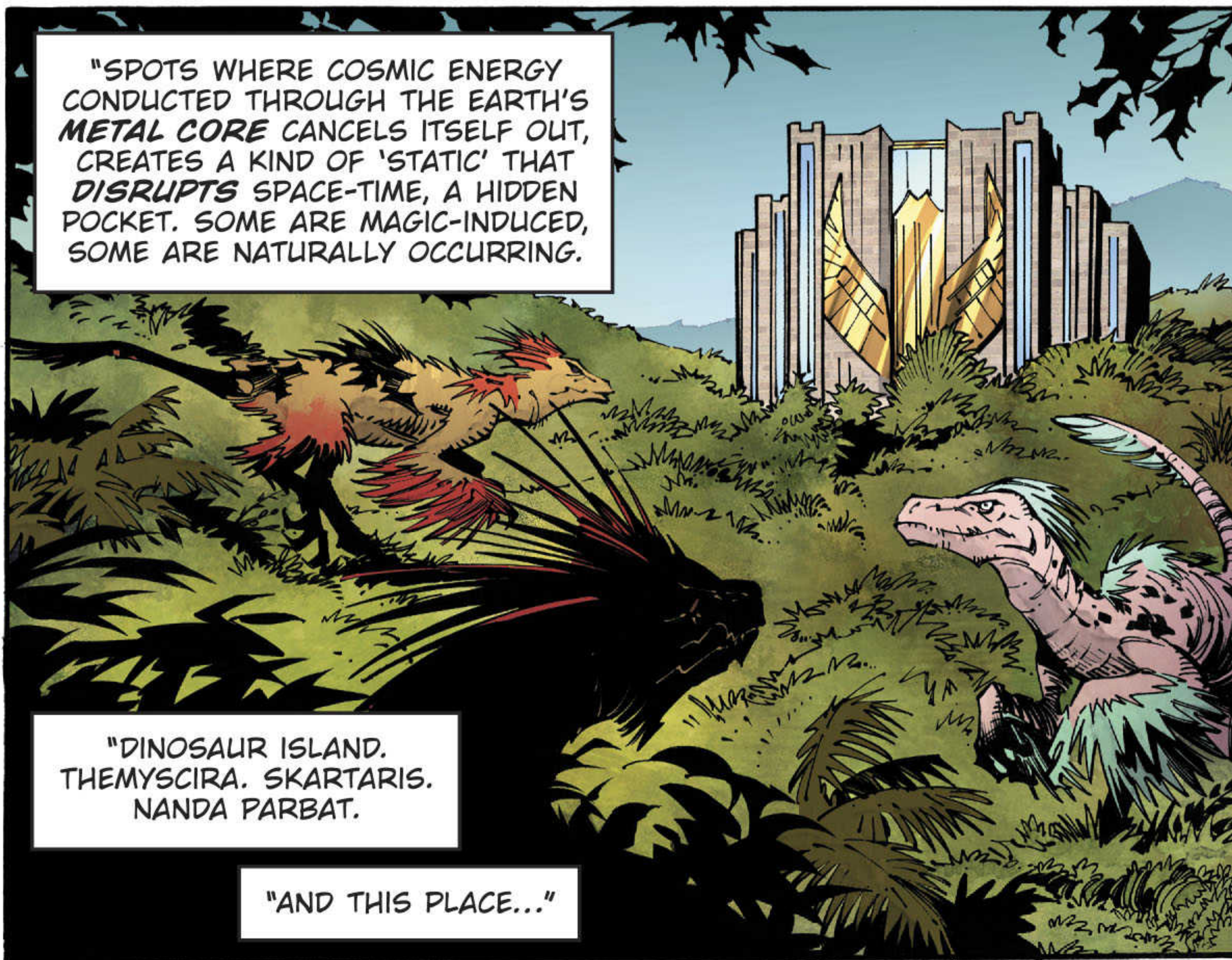
I WON'T SPEAK THE NAME HERE. IT'S TOO DANGEROUS. FOR THE CITY...MAYBE FOR THE **WHOLE WORLD**. BUT IF YOU COME WITH ME...

SOUTH PACIFIC.

"...I'LL **SHOW** YOU EVERYTHING I KNOW."



"THERE ARE PLACES ON THIS PLANET THAT LIE OUTSIDE OF THE NORMAL MATH OF THINGS. SOME EXIST AT WHAT WE BELIEVE ARE **PHANTOM FREQUENCIES**.



"SPOTS WHERE COSMIC ENERGY CONDUCTED THROUGH THE EARTH'S **METAL CORE** CANCELS ITSELF OUT, CREATES A KIND OF 'STATIC' THAT **DISRUPTS** SPACE-TIME, A HIDDEN POCKET. SOME ARE MAGIC-INDUCED, SOME ARE NATURALLY OCCURRING.

"DINOSAUR ISLAND. THEMYSIRA. SKARTARIS. NANDA PARBAT.

"AND THIS PLACE..."



...BLACKHAWK ISLAND.

YOU SPOKE OF AN INVASION, KENDRA. YOU PROMISED TO TELL US WHO WAS **BEHIND** IT. EVERY MINUTE WE SPEND IN THIS PLACE--

THIS PLACE IS YOUR ONLY HOPE, SUPERMAN.

FOR MANY YEARS, IT WAS A BASE OF OPERATIONS FOR A GREAT **DETECTIVE** OF HISTORY...A HERO NAMED **CARTER HALL**...

NTH METAL.

THIS **FRAGMENT** IS ONE OF THE LAST **PURE** PIECES LEFT IN THE UNIVERSE.

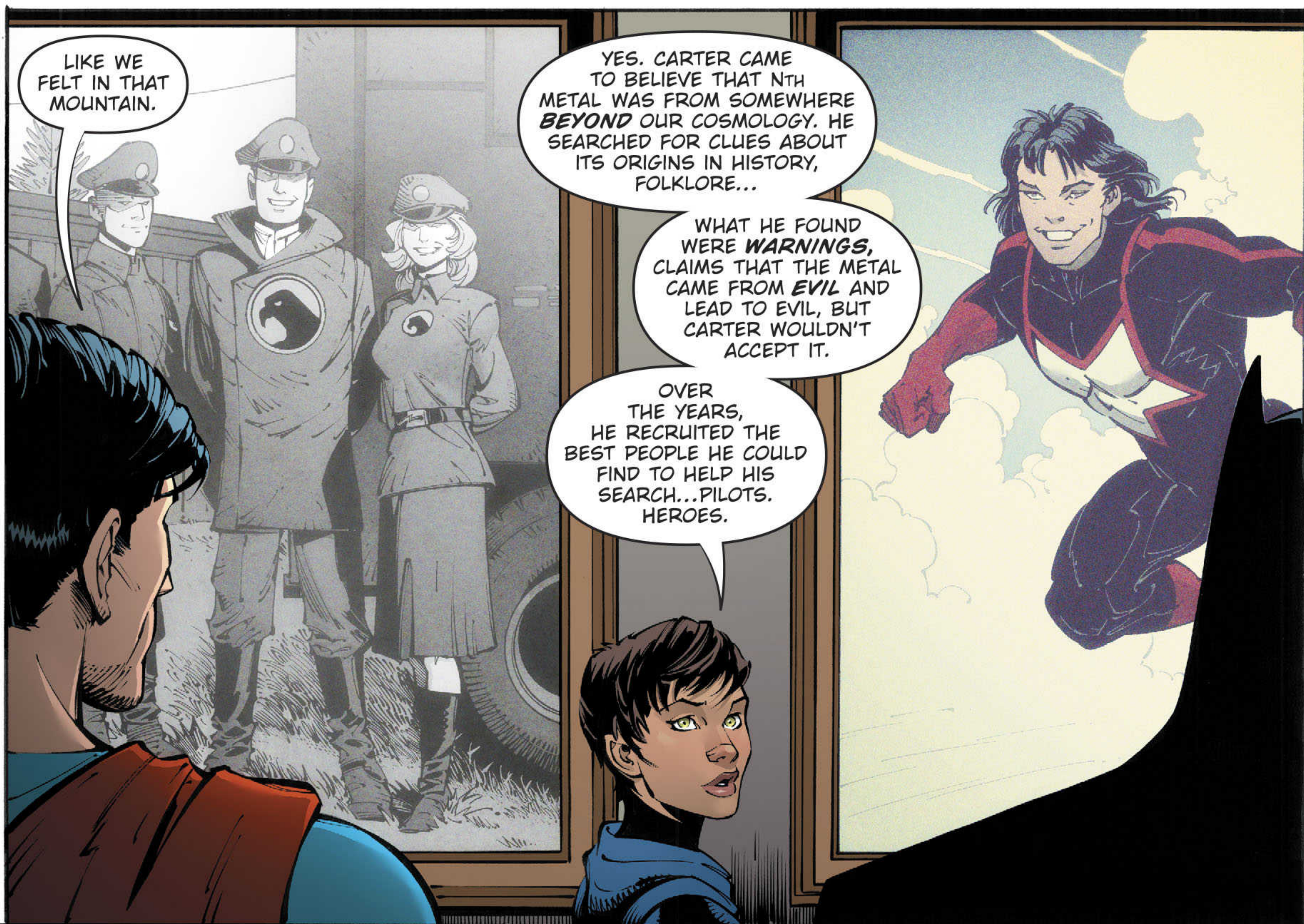
IT'S THE ONLY MATERIAL CAPABLE OF GIVING **VASTLY DIFFERENT** POWERS TO THOSE WHO POSSESS IT. ETERNAL LIFE. FLIGHT. MYSTICAL VISION...IT **DEFIES** ALL RULES OF SCIENCE AND MAGIC.

AND AT CERTAIN TIMES, IT SEEMS TO **BROADCAST** A STRANGE KIND OF ENERGY.

HAWKMAN.

OUR STORY SOUNDS CRAZY, BUT THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO, HE AND I WERE STABBED WITH A **DAGGER** OF A MYSTERIOUS SUBSTANCE AND ENTERED A CYCLE OF **REINCARNATION** THAT SPANNED HISTORY.

FOR MANY LIVES, WE FOUGHT TOGETHER AS PARTNERS, **PROTECTING** THE WORLD FROM EVIL... BUT CARTER NEVER STOPPED SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS ABOUT THE **MATERIAL** THAT STARTED THE WHOLE CYCLE.



LIKE WE FELT IN THAT MOUNTAIN.

YES. CARTER CAME TO BELIEVE THAT NTH METAL WAS FROM SOMEWHERE **BEYOND** OUR COSMOLOGY. HE SEARCHED FOR CLUES ABOUT ITS ORIGINS IN HISTORY, FOLKLORE...

WHAT HE FOUND WERE **WARNINGS**, CLAIMS THAT THE METAL CAME FROM **EVIL** AND LEAD TO EVIL, BUT CARTER WOULDN'T ACCEPT IT.

OVER THE YEARS, HE RECRUITED THE BEST PEOPLE HE COULD FIND TO HELP HIS SEARCH...PILOTS. HEROES.

INVENTORS.

ADVENTURERS WHO WOULD **CHALLENGE THE UNKNOWN** WITH HIM.



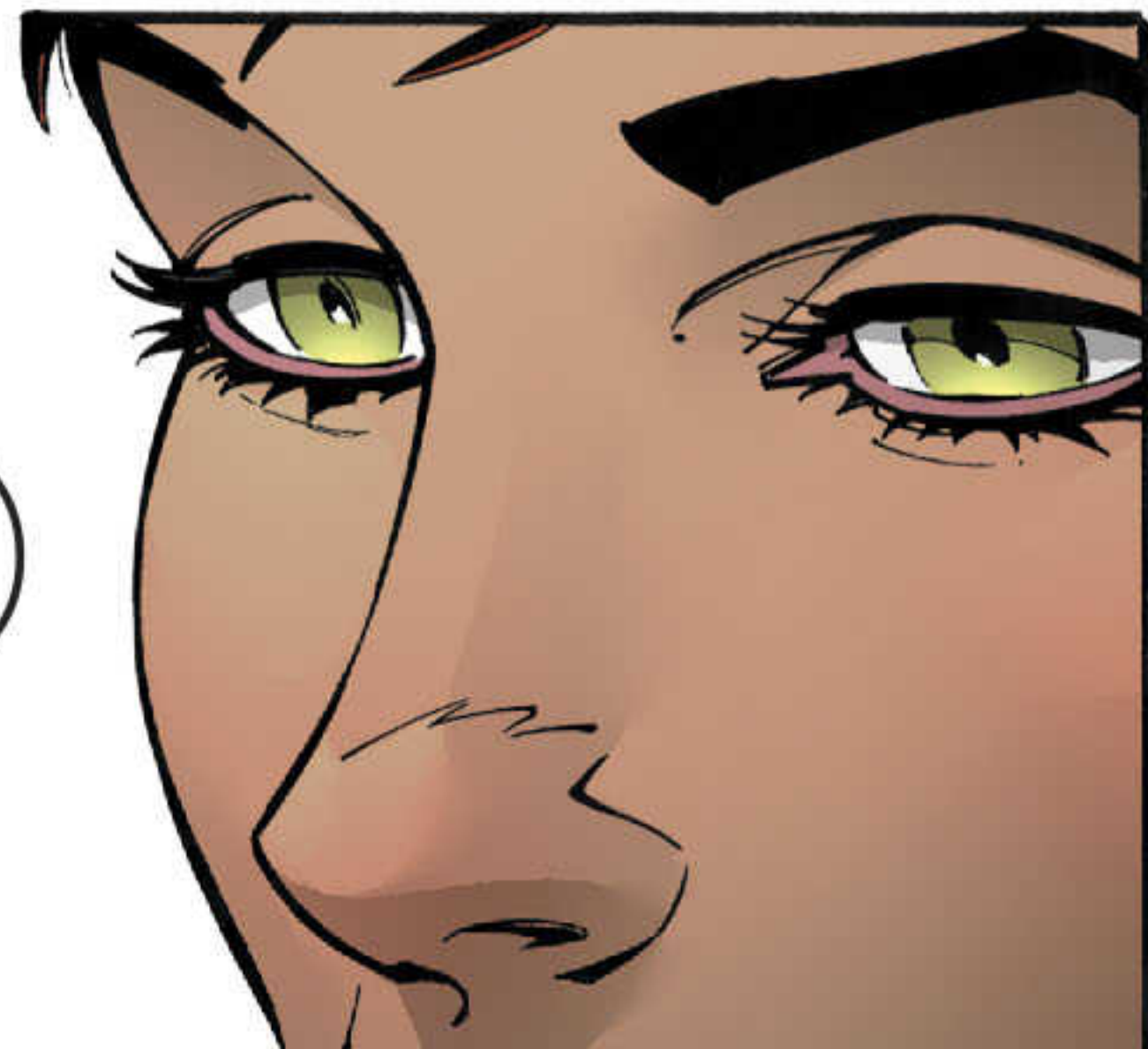
CY, YOU'RE **SHAKING**.

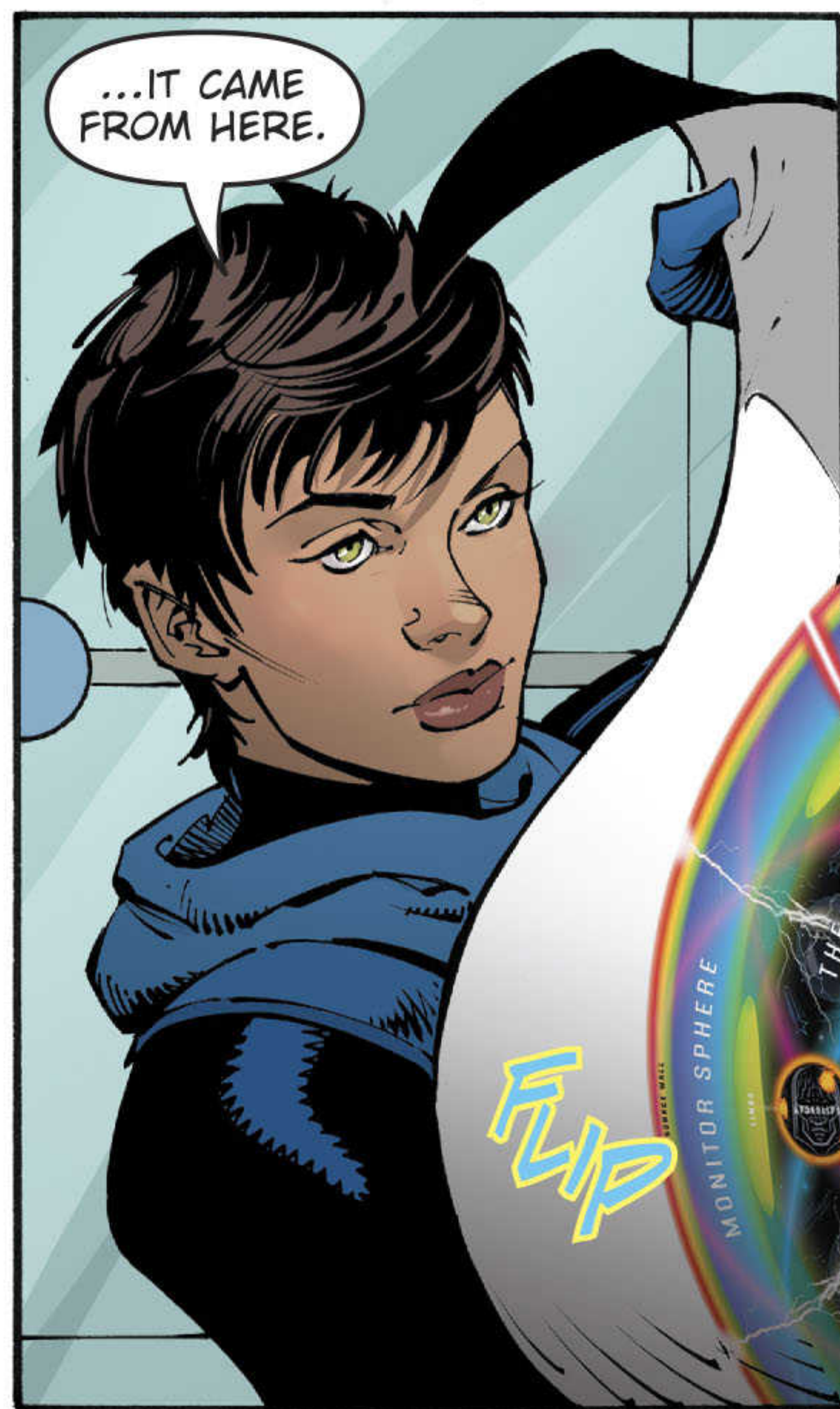
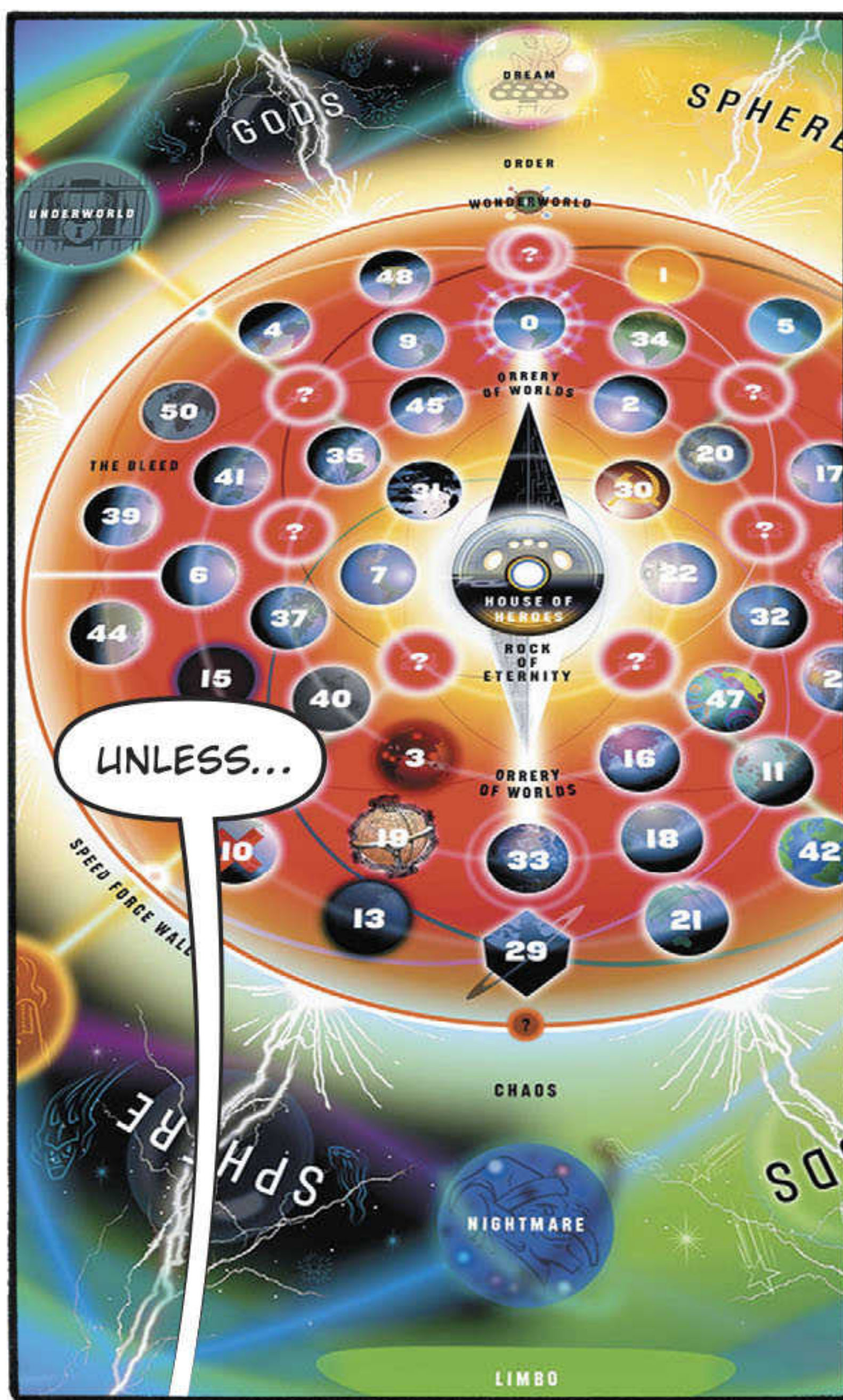
THAT ENERGY. IT'S EVEN WORSE HERE. SOMETHING'S GETTING **CLOSER**.

WE **FOUGHT** OVER IT, HE AND I. BUT NOT LONG AGO, HE FELT HIS TEAM WAS READY TO GET ANSWERS.

TO **TRAVEL** TO THE OTHER SIDE.

STOP BEING CRYPTIC. WHAT ARE YOU GETTING AT, KENDRA?





ALL I SEE IS THE
BACK OF A MAP.

UNTIL RECENTLY, THAT'S
ALL ANY OF US SAW. EVERYONE
BELIEVED THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF
REALITY WERE **MATTER** AND **ANTI-
MATTER**. BUT NOT LONG AGO,
ASTRONOMERS DISCOVERED
A **THIRD** MATERIAL.

AND THE SCARY THING
IS, IT TURNS OUT DARK MATTER
AND DARK ENERGY ACTUALLY MAKE
UP THE GREAT MAJORITY OF OUR
UNIVERSE. THIS STUFF WE
CAN'T SEE OR FEEL.

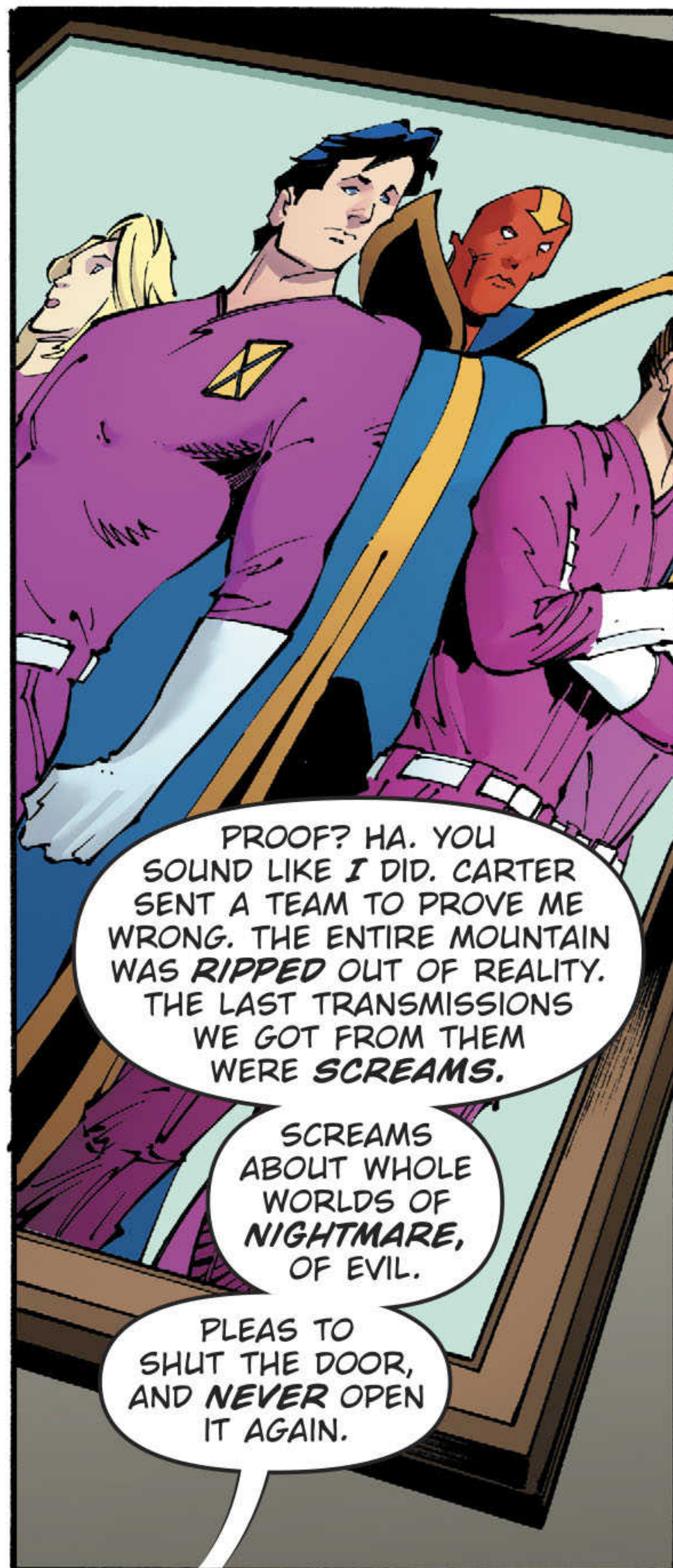


SO NOW LOOK AT THE
MAP AND IMAGINE NTH METAL
CONNECTING US TO A
REALM MUCH OLDER AND
MUCH VASTER THAN OURS.
AN OCEANIC, SUBCONSCIOUS
REALM OUR **TINY**
MULTIVERSE FLOATS
ON.



IF THIS IS
TRUE, IT WOULD
CHANGE EVERYTHING
WE KNOW ABOUT
EVERYTHING.

WHAT
PROOF DO YOU
HAVE?



PROOF? HA. YOU
SOUND LIKE I DID. CARTER
SENT A TEAM TO PROVE ME
WRONG. THE ENTIRE MOUNTAIN
WAS **RIPPED** OUT OF REALITY.
THE LAST TRANSMISSIONS
WE GOT FROM THEM
WERE **SCREAMS**.

SCREAMS
ABOUT WHOLE
WORLDS OF
NIGHTMARE,
OF EVIL.

PLEAS TO
SHUT THE DOOR,
AND **NEVER** OPEN
IT AGAIN.



AND A WARNING
FROM **RED TORNADO**
JUST BEFORE WE LOST
CONTACT. A WARNING ABOUT
A...THING DOWN THERE. HE
CALLED IT A "**GREAT
DRAGON**." A BEAST THAT
PROWLED THE DARK.
AND A NAME.

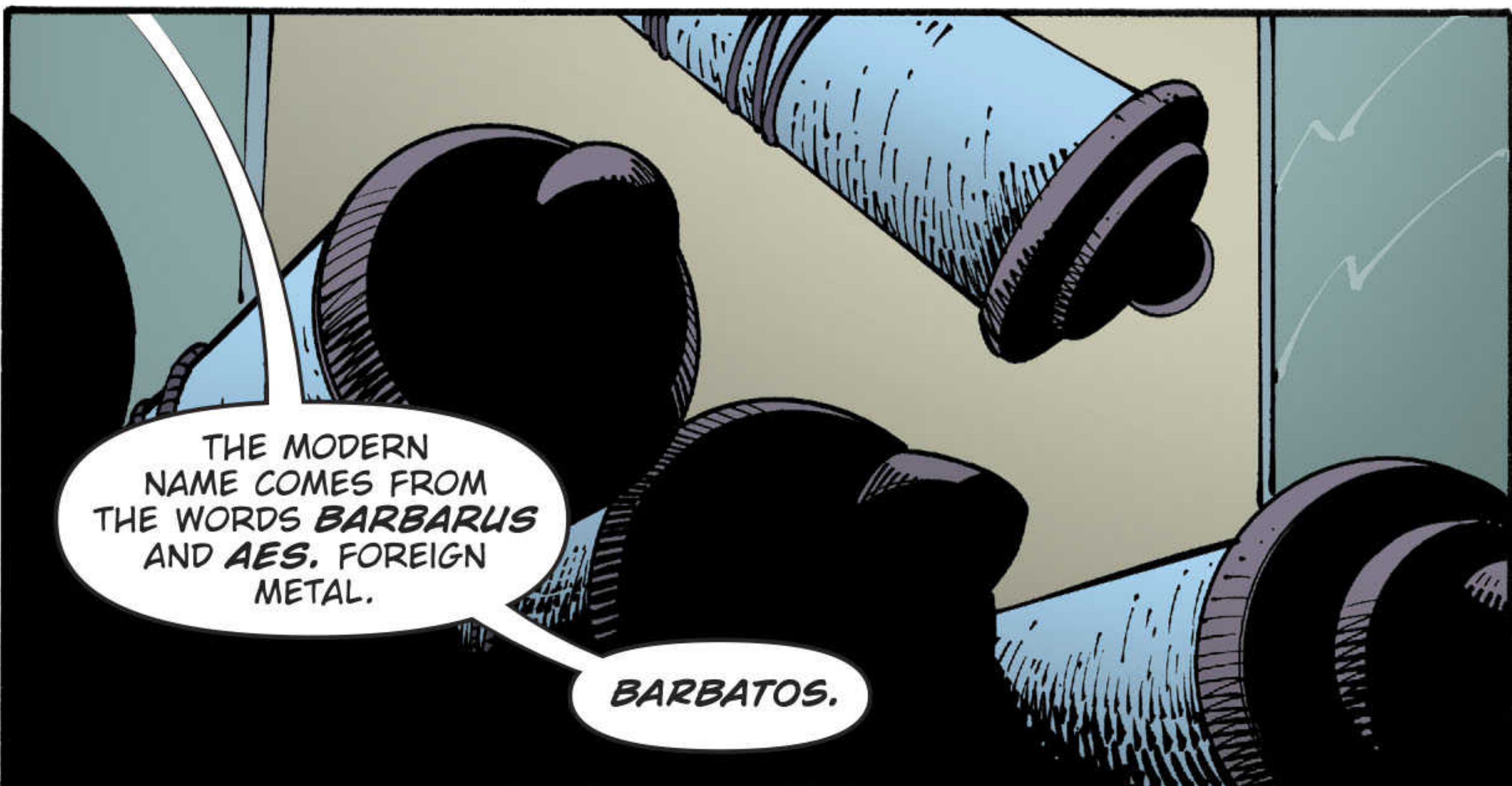
WHAT
NAME?

CARTER HAD A **JOURNAL**,
BATMAN...IT'S BEEN LOST
EVER SINCE HE FOLLOWED
THE CHALLENGERS INTO
THE DARK.

BUT I SEARCHED THE CLUES HE LEFT HERE.
AND WHAT I FOUND IS RECORD OF A **BEAST**
SEEN IN VISIONS, TRANSMISSIONS THROUGH
HIGH METALS. AN ORIGINAL BEING.
**MATTER. ANTIMATTER. AND
NOW DARKNESS.**

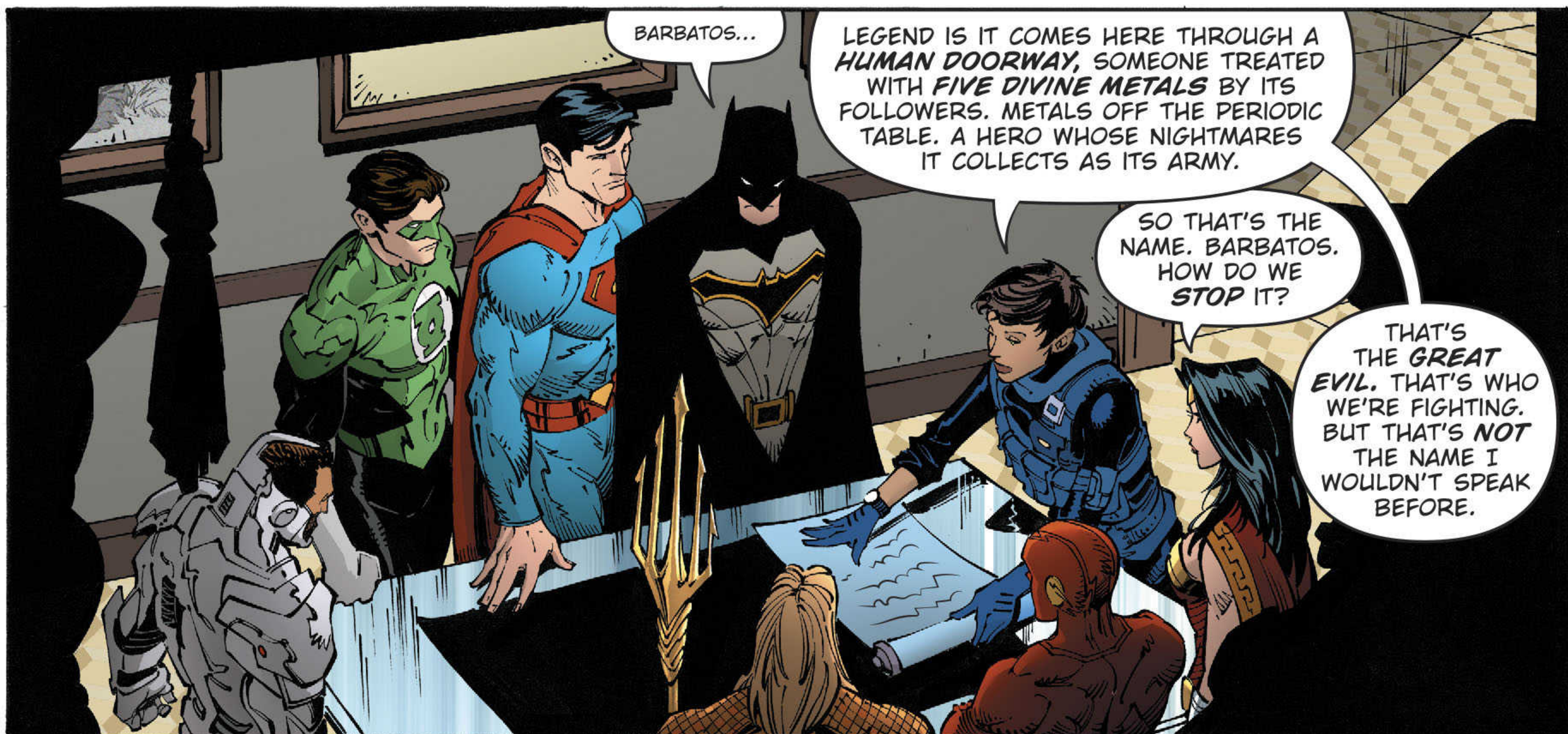


I'VE FOUND
MANY NAMES FOR
IT IN HISTORY. A
DARK-HORNED GOD
OF NIGHTMARE. OF
CURSED STORIES.
I SEE IT HIDDEN IN
OTHER **DEITIES**.
SET. LORD OF THE
RABISU. ALL PRAYED
TO THROUGH
METALS BY THE
DARK TRIBE,
ENEMY OF THE
BIRDS.



THE MODERN
NAME COMES FROM
THE WORDS **BARBARUS**
AND **AES**. FOREIGN
METAL.

BARBATOS.

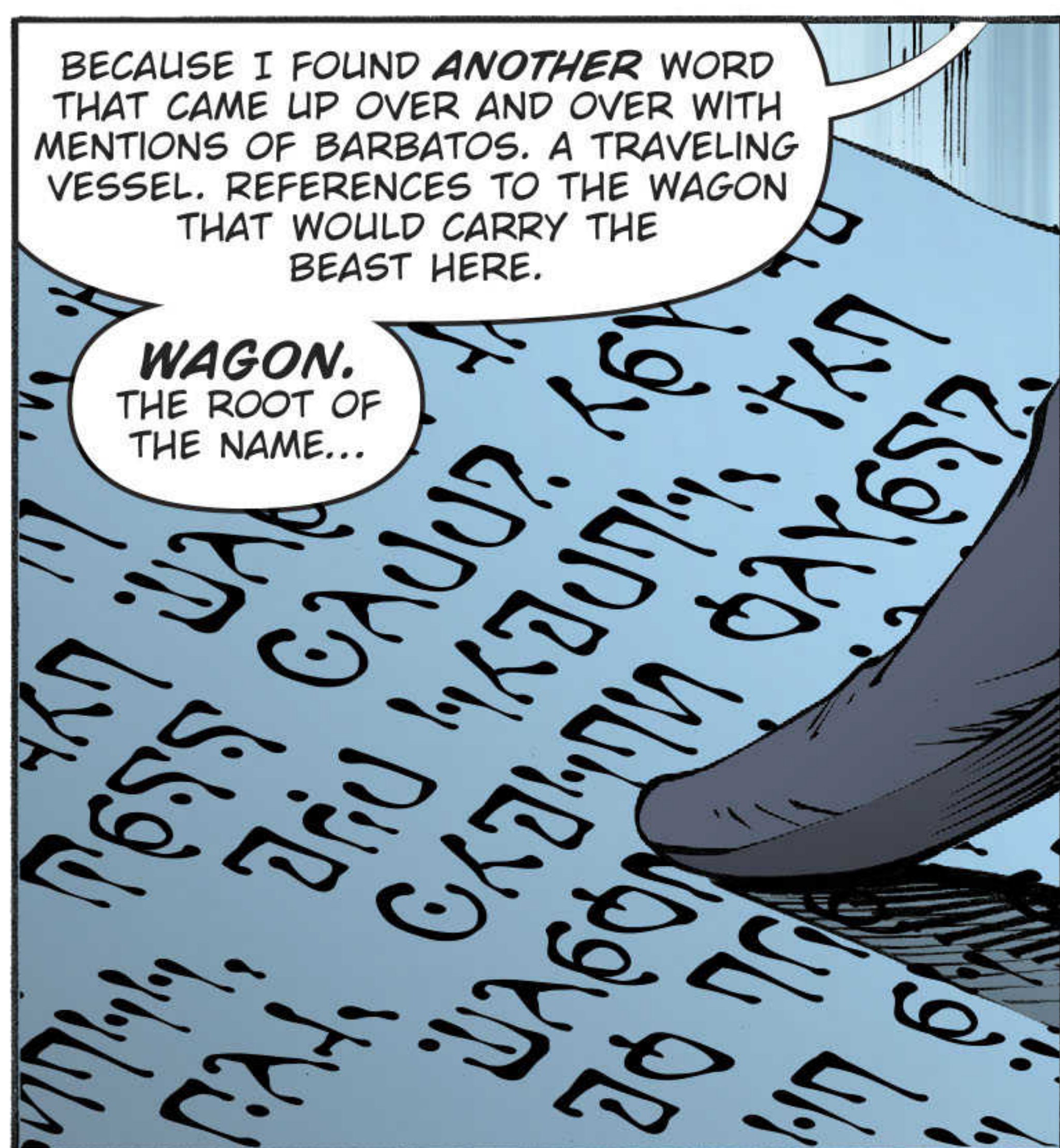


BARBATOS...

LEGEND IS IT COMES HERE THROUGH A **HUMAN DOORWAY**, SOMEONE TREATED WITH **FIVE DIVINE METALS** BY ITS FOLLOWERS. METALS OFF THE PERIODIC TABLE. A HERO WHOSE NIGHTMARES IT COLLECTS AS ITS ARMY.

SO THAT'S THE NAME. BARBATOS. HOW DO WE STOP IT?

THAT'S THE **GREAT EVIL**. THAT'S WHO WE'RE FIGHTING. BUT THAT'S **NOT** THE NAME I WOULDN'T SPEAK BEFORE.



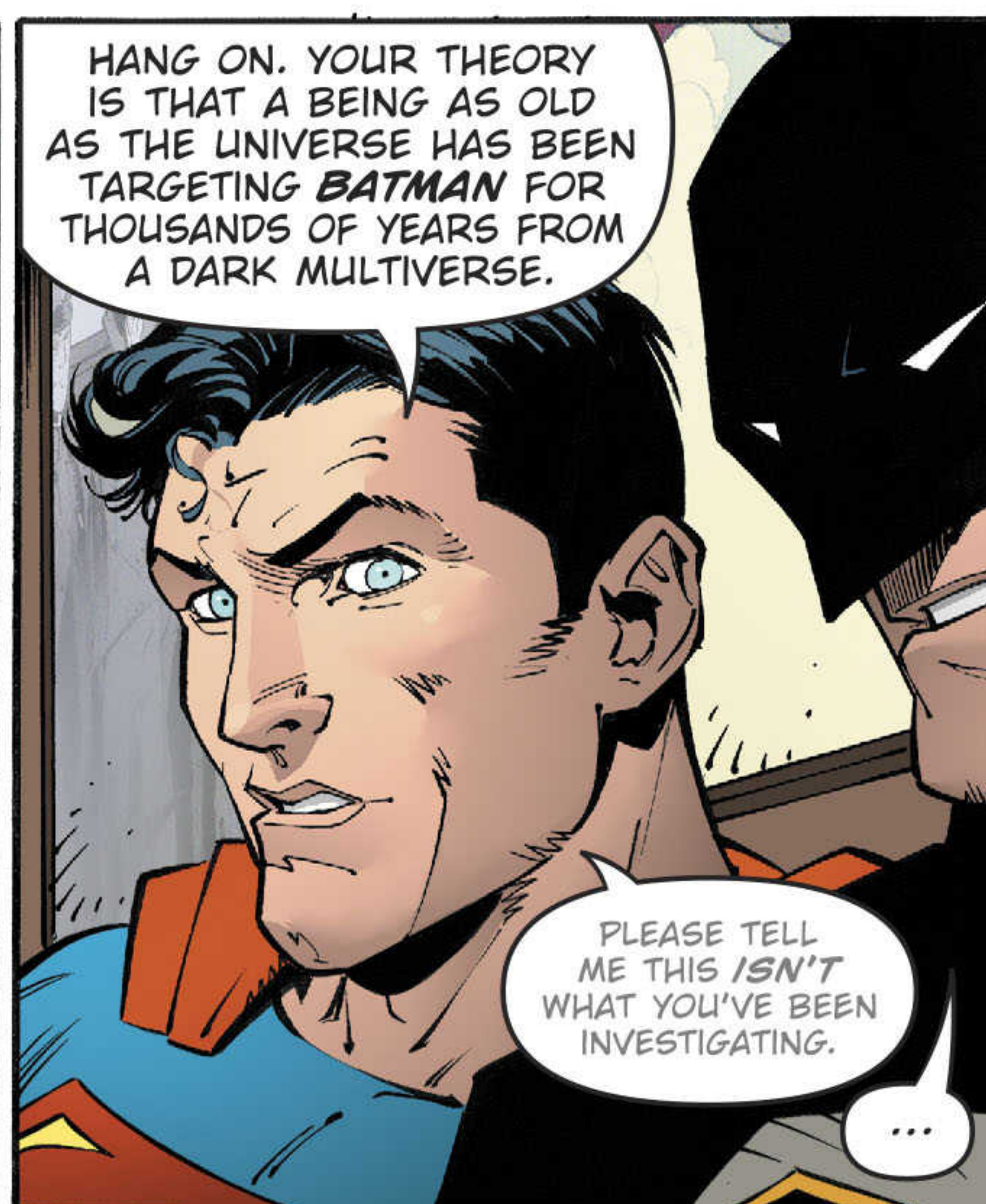
BECAUSE I FOUND **ANOTHER** WORD THAT CAME UP OVER AND OVER WITH MENTIONS OF BARBATOS. A TRAVELING VESSEL. REFERENCES TO THE WAGON THAT WOULD CARRY THE BEAST HERE.

WAGON.
THE ROOT OF THE NAME...



..."WAYNE."

BATMAN.
THE ONE WHO WILL LET HIM IN.



HANG ON. YOUR THEORY IS THAT A BEING AS OLD AS THE UNIVERSE HAS BEEN TARGETING **BATMAN** FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS FROM A DARK MULTIVERSE.

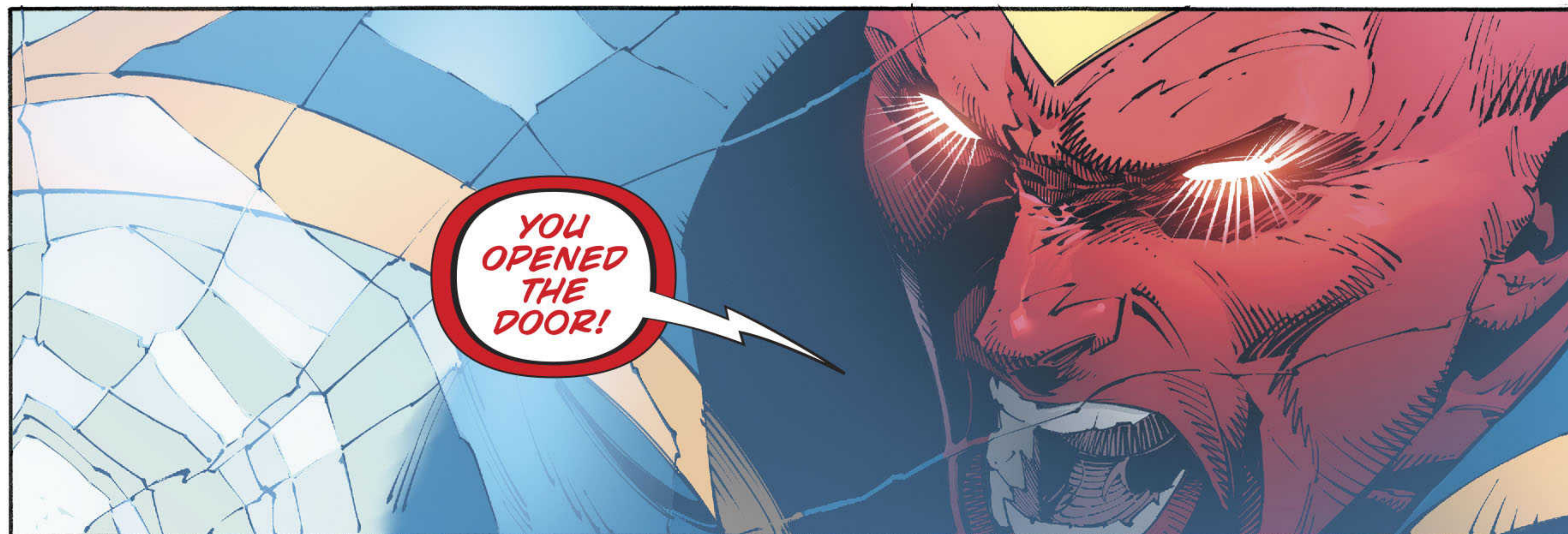
PLEASE TELL ME THIS **ISN'T** WHAT YOU'VE BEEN INVESTIGATING.



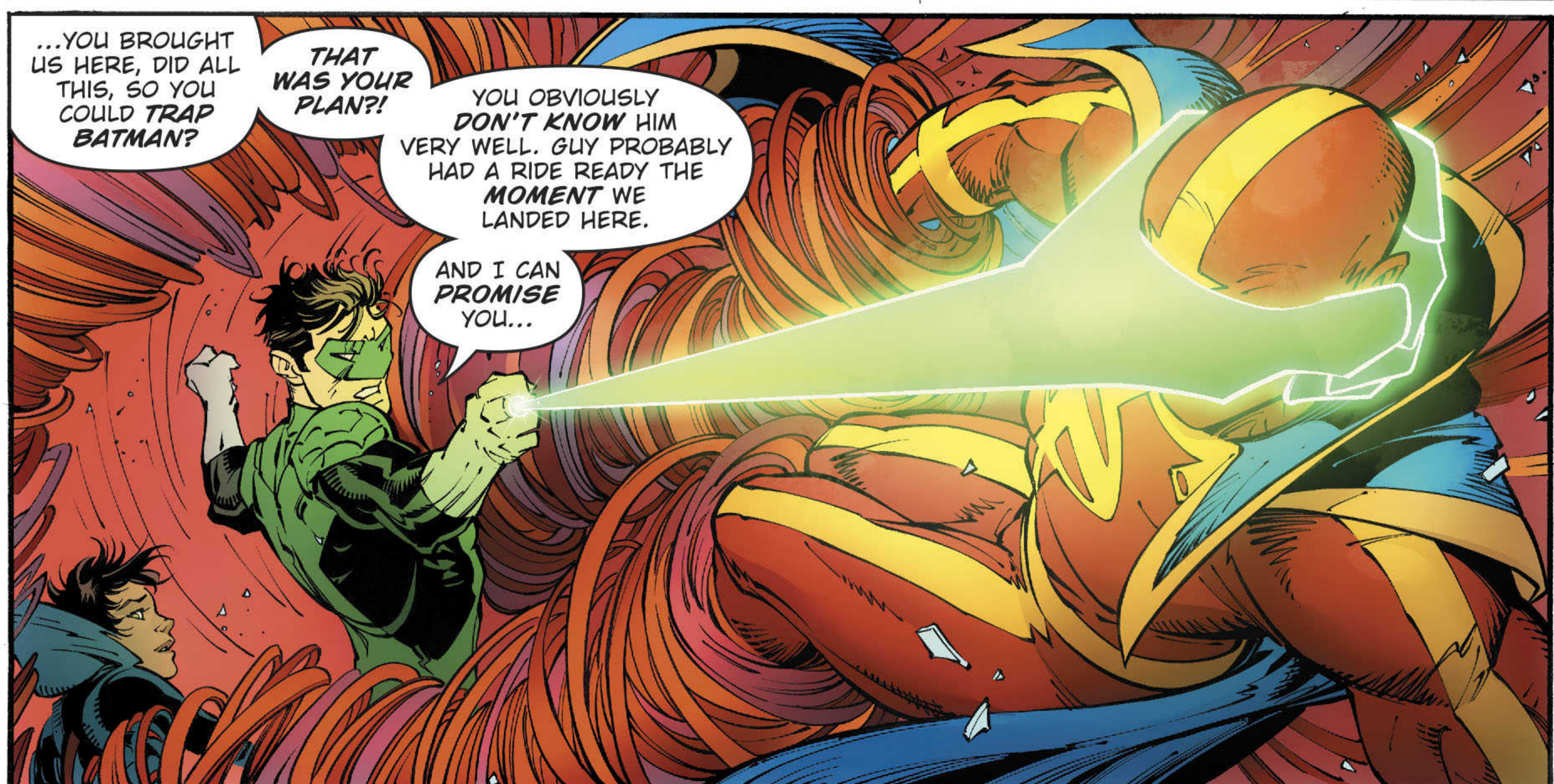
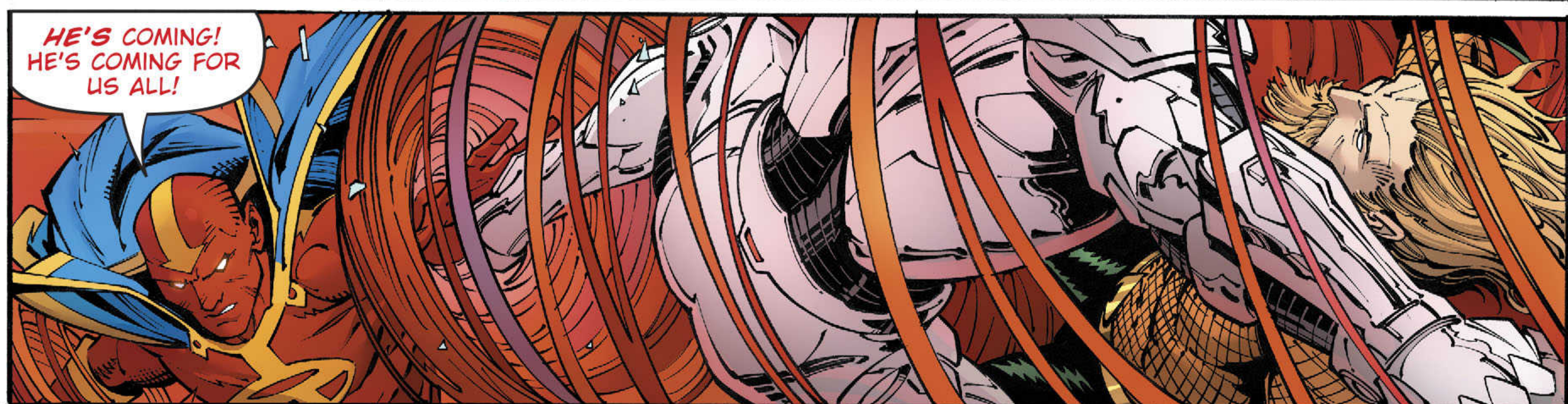
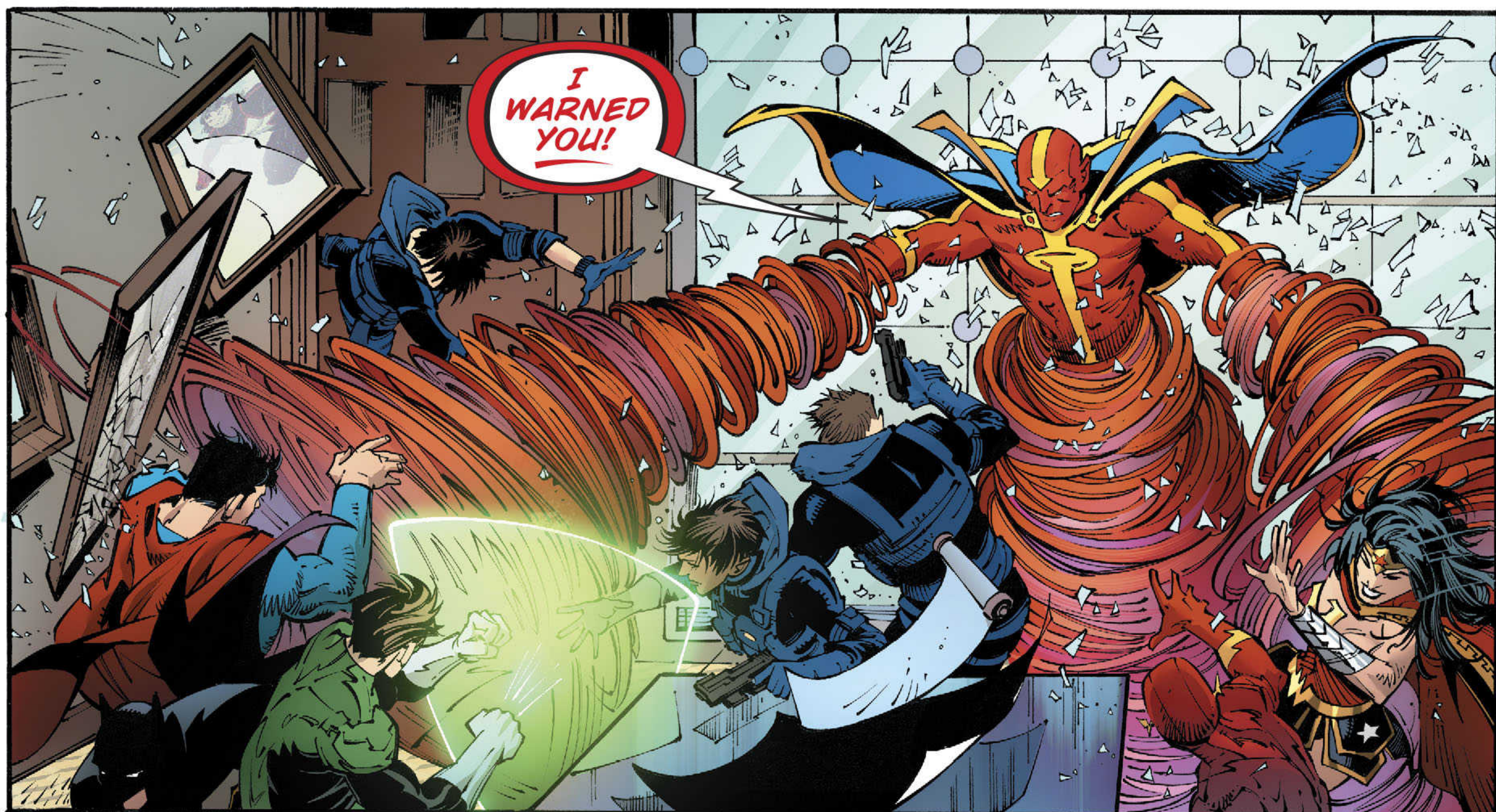
I'M SORRY, BATMAN, BUT AFTER CARTER'S MISTAKE, I **DESTROYED** MY WINGS AND DEVOTED MY LIFE TO **ENDING** NTH METAL.

IT'S MY MISSION. AND NOW TODAY, **CHALLENGERS' MOUNTAIN** APPEARS ON YOUR HOME TURF WITH--

THE DOOR!



YOU OPENED THE DOOR!



"...IT'S SOMETHING
STATE OF THE ART."

SCREEE!

QUIET, BOY,
QUIET!

ALFRED. I
GOT WHAT I CAME
FOR. READY THE
HYPER SUB...

*I told you how it
began, this story.
Now let me tell you
how it'll end.*

*How it'll end if I'm wrong
and the dark is a place of
evil, as the Immortals and
Kendra suspect.*

*The end will begin with
a shot fired from the
dark, something to
tear a hole in reality.*

...FAST.

And then, as dark energy pours into this world, the visions will start. Visions to those attuned to the power of Nth Metal...

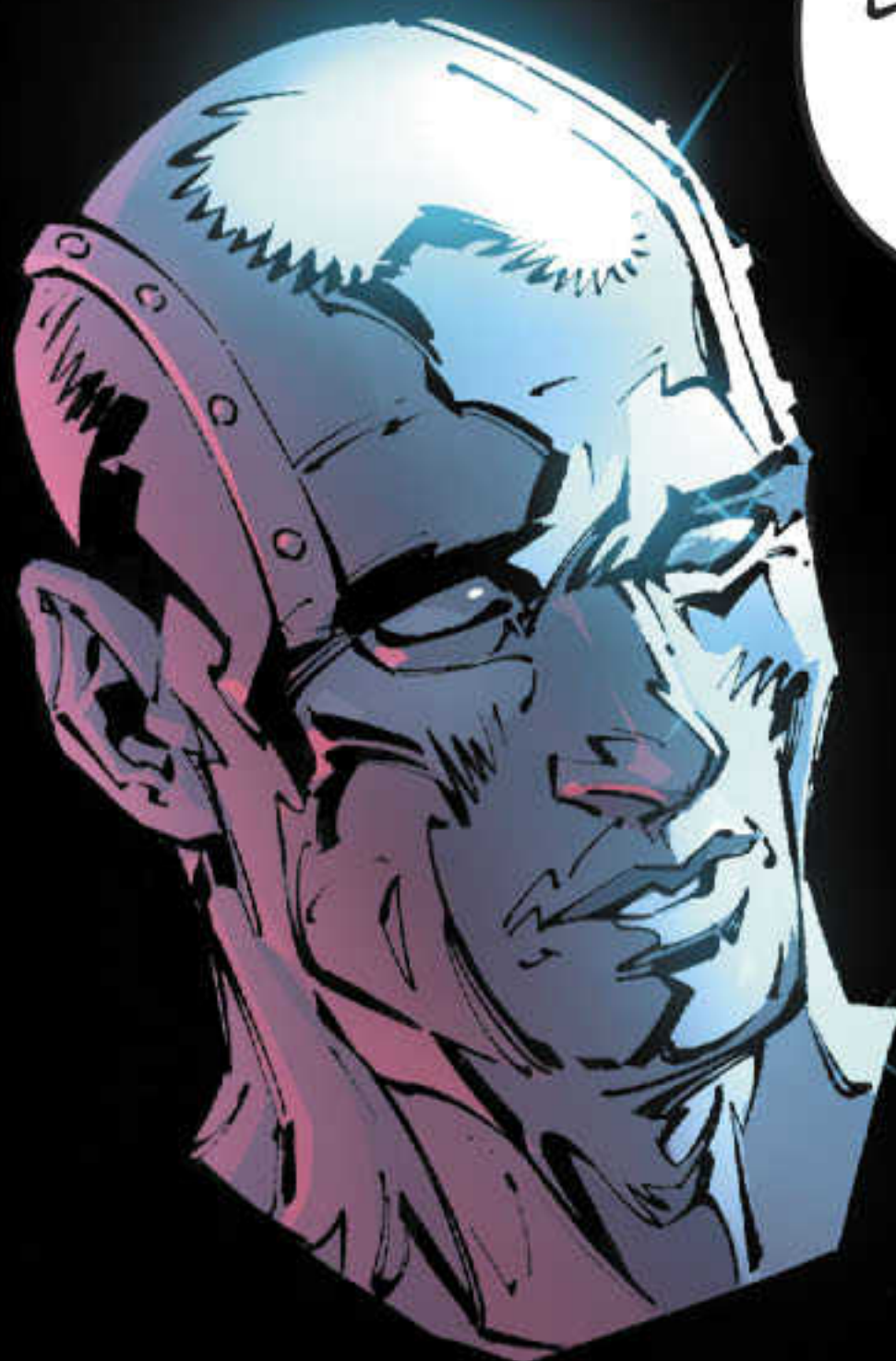


WHAT ARE THESE? THESE... PREMONITIONS?

...a glimpse of what's coming. A dark army...



WHAT IN...? I DON'T UNDERSTAND... SOMETHING GETTING... CLOSER?



...already on its way here.



BATCAVE.

On its way here to find the one Barbatos has been after all these years. The wagon for the dark-horned god...

SIR, I'M BEGGING YOU, TELL THEM--

PLEASE, ALFRED. I'M TOO CLOSE TO THE ANSWERS AND WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME. THE FALSE ENERGY SIGNATURES I LEFT BEHIND WON'T FOOL THE LEAGUE FOR LONG. I NEED TO PROTECT THEM. I NEED TO PROTECT EVERYONE.

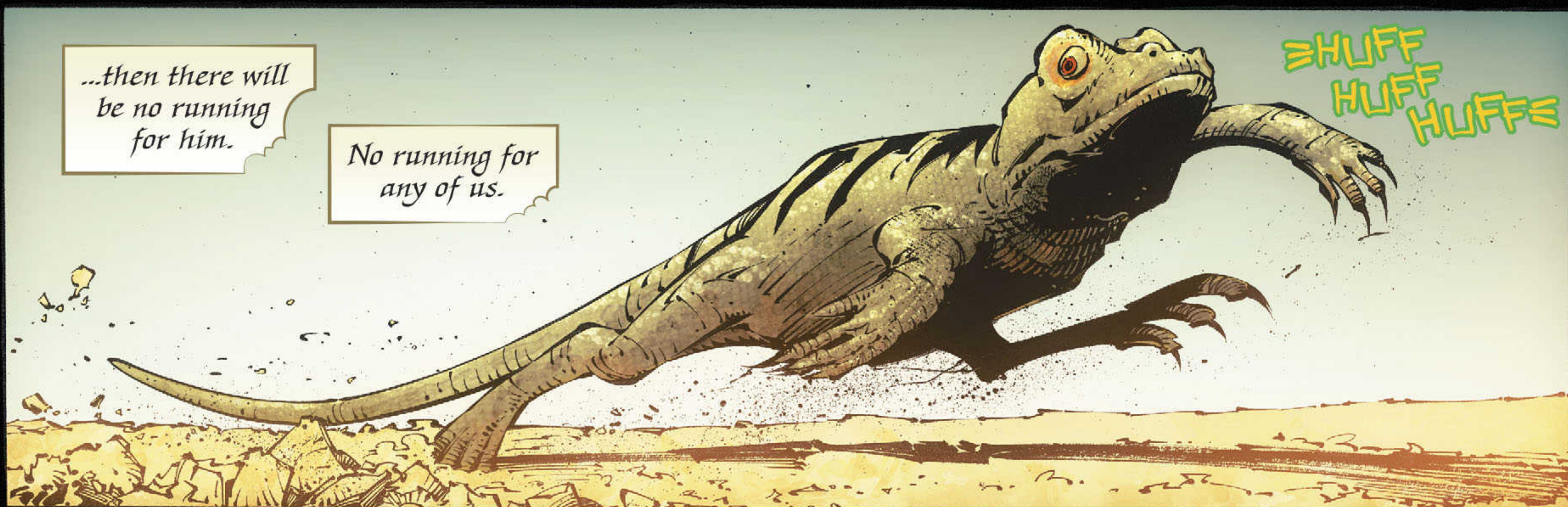
I'VE NEVER SEEN A PURE SAMPLE...NOT SINCE BEFORE THE PURGE. THE DARK ENERGY COMING THROUGH IT...INCREDIBLE. IT MUST BE WHY THE BRAALIANS WEREN'T WATCHING MONGUL. BRAAL IS HEAVILY MAGNETIC...

...Son of the House of Wayne.

I IMAGINE IF WE LOOK AT PLANETS WITH HEAVY METAL CORES, WE'LL FIND THOSE DAMN SIGNS WE MISSED.

SIR, LOOK UP FROM THAT. SOMETHING'S HAPPENING...

And if Wayne has been prepared by the Judas Tribe, if the agents of Barbatos have set in motion its coming...



...then there will
be no running
for him.

No running for
any of us.

SHUFF
HUFF
HUFFS



mmmmmmmmmm

LISTEN.
HUMMING. IT'S
LIKE A...

TUNING
FORK...
YES.

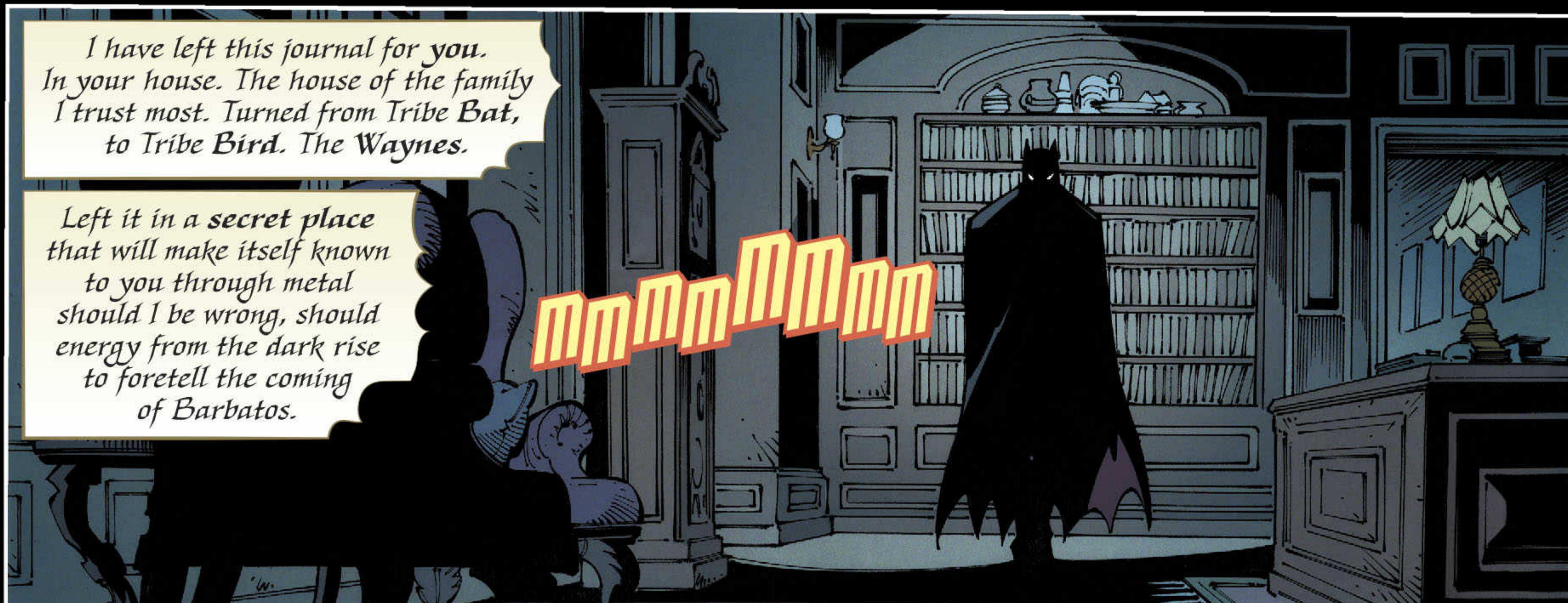
IT'S COMING
FROM
UPSTAIRS.



Barbatos has been after its
target since the dawn of man.
It first saw him in a final
moment of crisis.



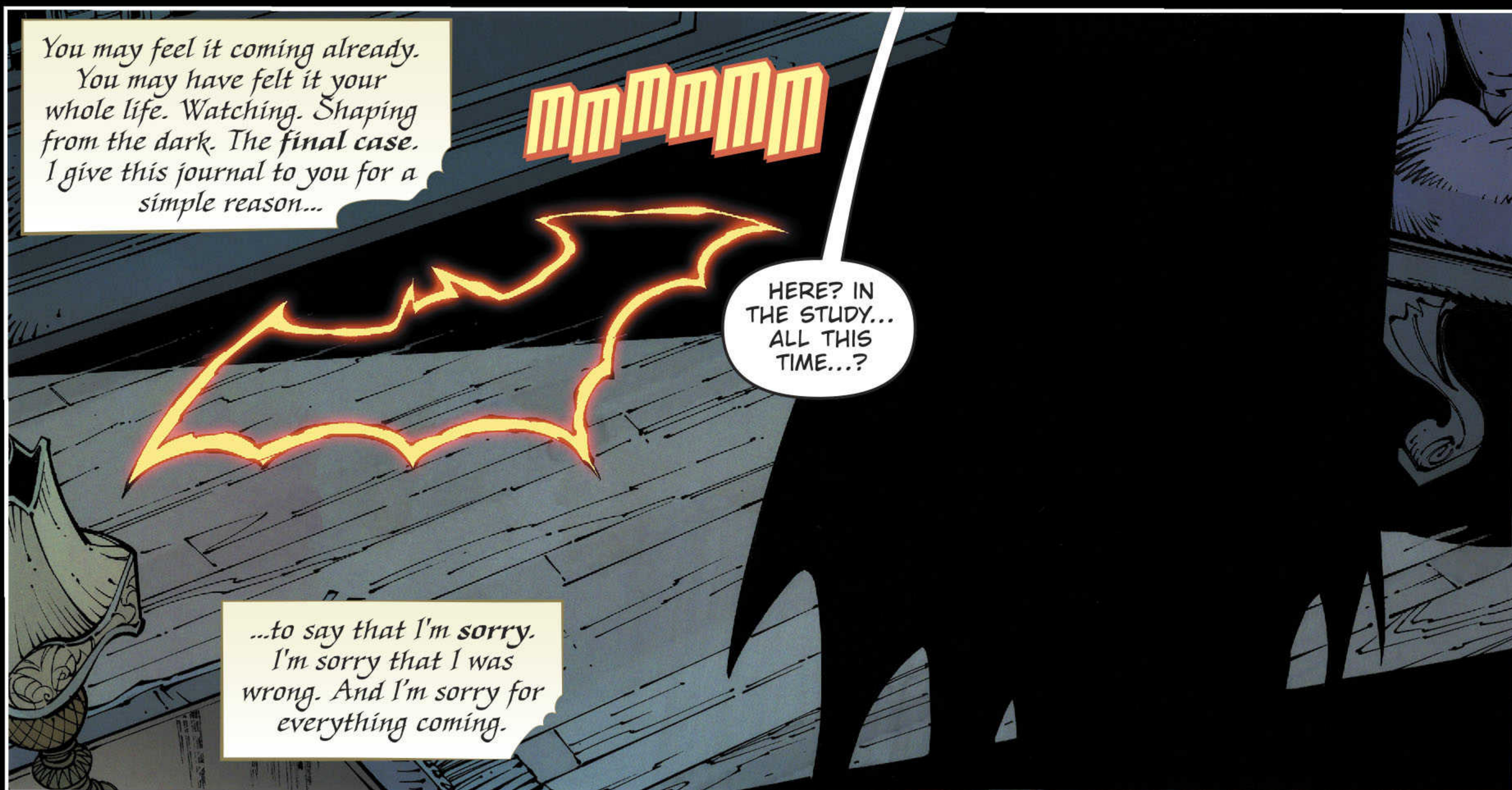
And now, if you are
reading this, a
second moment is
upon us.



I have left this journal for you.
In your house. The house of the family
I trust most. Turned from Tribe Bat,
to Tribe Bird. The Waynes.

Left it in a *secret place*
that will make itself known
to you through metal
should I be wrong, should
energy from the dark rise
to foretell the coming
of Barbatos.

mmmmmmmm



You may feel it coming already.
You may have felt it your
whole life. Watching. Shaping
from the dark. The *final case*.
I give this journal to you for a
simple reason...

HERE? IN
THE STUDY...
ALL THIS
TIME...?

...to say that I'm *sorry*.
I'm sorry that I was
wrong. And I'm sorry for
everything coming.



But tonight I still have hope that you will
never find this book. That it will stay
hidden. Now, I venture into the dark myself.
*Explorer. Detective. Proud member of
Tribe of the Bird.*

I follow that first
great dream of the
true tribes.

Signed,
Carter Hall.

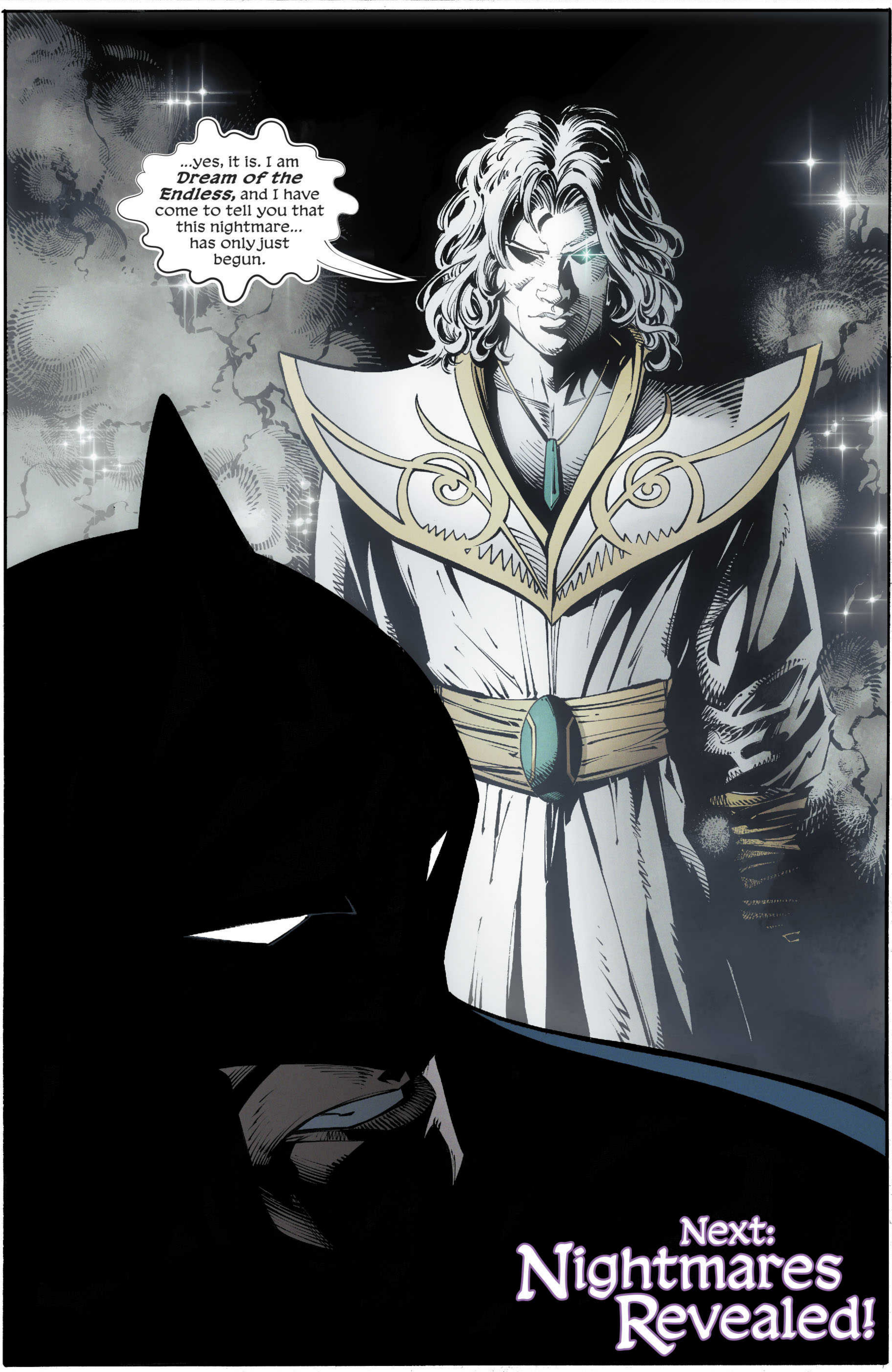
mmmmmm



THE
JOURNAL
OF CARTER
HALL...

MY GOD,
SO IT'S ALL
TRUE.

Yes,
Batman...



...yes, it is. I am
***Dream of the
Endless***, and I have
come to tell you that
this nightmare...
has only just
begun.

Next:
**Nightmares
Revealed!**